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The *Magazine for the Christian Home*

# Hearthstone



- **Our Retirement - Florence Kerigan**
- **Disagree-But Love - Kathleen Marling**

January, 1955 - 25c



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1955

The Magazine for the Christian Home

# Hearthstone

E. LEE NEAL, *Editor*  
SUE HERON, *Assistant Editor*

## Contents

### ARTICLES

Off to a Good Start . . . . .	Robert W. Burns	2
White and Black in Black and White . . . . .	Faith Coxe Bailey	4
New Year's Resolutions that Keep . . . . .	Rosalie W. Doss	6
Our Retirement . . . . .	Florence Kerigan	9
They Can Be Helped at Home . . . . .	Harvey Bartle, Jr., M.D.	10
Disagree—But Love . . . . .	Kathleen Marling	13
Let's Find Our Family Bibles (Study Article and Guide) . . . . .	Anna Laura Gebhard	22
Problems Are a Part of Normal Growth . . . . .	Helen Thomson	26

### FICTION

Forbid Them Not . . . . .	Margaret Chaplin Anderson	7
Story for Children Party for a Snowman . . . . .	Maithel Martin	18

### FEATURES

The World at Your Front Door . . . . .		1
Hobbies for Shut-Ins . . . . .	Loie Brandom	12
Baby . . . . .	Doris Clore Demaree	16
Worship in the Family with Children . . . . .		19
Biblegram . . . . .	Hilda E. Allen	25
Books for the Hearthside . . . . .		29
This Is the Way We Did It . . . . .		
Wait a Week . . . . .	Mildred Cole	30
Family Counselor . . . . .	Donald Maynard	31
Over the Back Fence . . . . .		32

COVER: Photograph by Harold M. Lambert

Published Jointly Each Month By

#### Christian Board of Publication

WILBUR H. CRAMBLET, *President*  
Beaumont and Pine Boulevard  
Box 179, St. Louis 3, Missouri

#### The American Baptist Publication Society

LUTHER WESLEY SMITH, *Executive Secretary*  
1703 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Vol. 7

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No. 1

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Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Philadelphia, Pa.

All books and printed matter referred to in *Hearthstone* may be ordered from either publishing house. All prices are subject to change without notice.

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Price, 25 cents per single copy; five or more copies to one address, 20 cents each (60 cents per quarter); single subscriptions, \$3.00 per year.

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Printed in St. Louis, Mo., U. S. A.



### Are You a Griper?

I am sure that there are people in your acquaintance who are always griping—they gripe about the food served in the college dining hall; they gripe about the weather; they gripe because the neighbors are better dressed than they are. They always find some cause for griping. Horror horrors! MAYBE YOU ARE GRIPER, TOO.

When I feel like griping, I always think of a motto taken from my home-brewed philosophy: Be grateful for the things you do have instead of griping for the things you don't have. It works for me.

You know, most of us don't have any reason to gripe. We come from good homes, we have enough clothes to wear, and we have modern conveniences unheard of in many countries. So let's start the new year right by resolving not to gripe.

**What's Here?** When Mr. American Businessman's term of employment draws to a halt, he has to retire. Florence Kerigan thinks that his wife should retire too. What do you think of that idea, Mr. American Businessman's wife? Read Florence Kerigan's article in this issue of *Hearthstone* called "Our Retirement."

Do you find that you and your relatives are at swords' points most of the time because of conflicting racial, religious, or political opinions? Kathleen Marling, in her article "Disagree—but Love," tells through her own experience how to get along with relatives who hold divergent opinions on major issues.

Don't be alarmed to discover that your once boisterous six-year-old has suddenly changed into an antisocial recluse. Helen Thomson says that major personality changes are a part of the growing-up process. If you think that your children are abnormal because they display certain undesirable traits at various stages of growth, you'll feel comforted after reading "Problems Are a Part of Normal Growth."

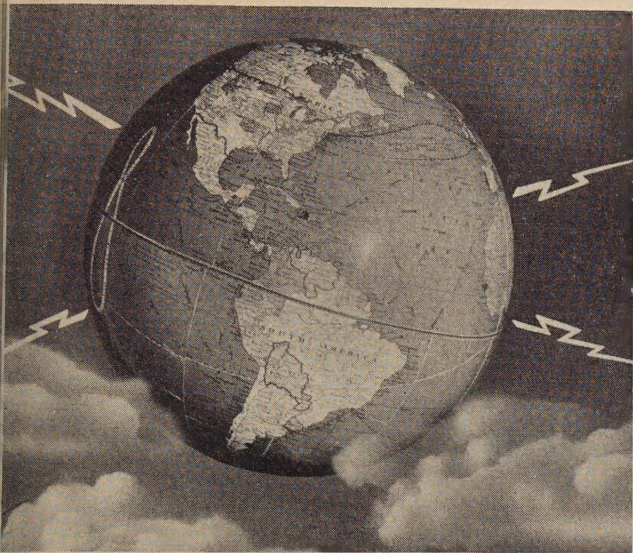
"Forbid Them Not," a story by Margaret Chaplin Anderson, will give you a desire to be a better neighbor. For the lollipop crowd there's "Party for a Snowman," by Maithel Martin.

**What's Coming?** A few titles to intrigue you are "Silence Is Stubborn" and "Please Pass the Paper Handkerchief." You'll find these and a lot of other interesting articles and features in your next issue of *Hearthstone*.

Adios.

S. H.





—H. Armstrong Roberts

## Pro-UN Is Not Subversive!

We bring *Hearthstone* readers an editorial from a Texas newspaper, the *San Antonio News*, written to answer a charge that a certain pamphlet was subversive. It is possible that some of our readers have heard this same charge made against the pamphlet named in the editorial.

“That momentary tempest in a teapot, flurried by an unsupported charge that a ‘subversive’ pamphlet containing Communist propaganda” is being circulated in unspecified local schools and churches, was quickly squelched by checking the easily available facts.

“That incident offers a pat example of the deplorable trend criticized by this newspaper last Sunday in a ‘Views of the News’ editorial entitled ‘Critics Belittle Real Worth of UN.’

“The pamphlet in question—*The United Nations: Facts and Fallacies*, published by the Church Peace Union, New York—lies before us on the desk. Every word has been carefully scrutinized.

“The pamphlet’s message is a forthright, completely accurate rebuttal to disgusting anti-UN propaganda being disseminated by a tiny but raucously vocal minority in this country, led by professional hate peddlers.

“The pamphlet is purely and simply pro-United Nations. If that makes it subversive, then so are President Eisenhower, Secretary of States Dulles, the Republican and Democratic Party platforms, the congressional majorities who vote UN funds, the majority of American public opinion as reported by competent surveys, and the popular and parliamentary majorities of every foreign ally of the United States.

“But make no mistake, this type of absurdity is insidiously dangerous. It is part of a totalitarian-type thought-control trend that San Antonians have seen attack freedom of information in their public library, schools, and PTA councils, so far unsuccessful. It has been fought here before; it must be fought, and it will be fought in every instance. Let those who care to join the issue keep their facts straight.”

# AT YOUR FRONT DOOR

# THE WORLD

## The Alternative to War

O. Frederick Nolde, director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, told the World Council of Churches meeting at Evanston that the churches must work steadfastly and intelligently for peace, justice, and freedom.

Dr. Nolde stressed that this work must be done in the light of the following constant requirements for a peaceful world:

1) Purposeful negotiations which should be considered successful “in the degree to which a much needed solution has been advanced to the point where it can command sufficient support of all parties concerned to move competition toward cooperation.”

2) An end to imperialism of all kinds.

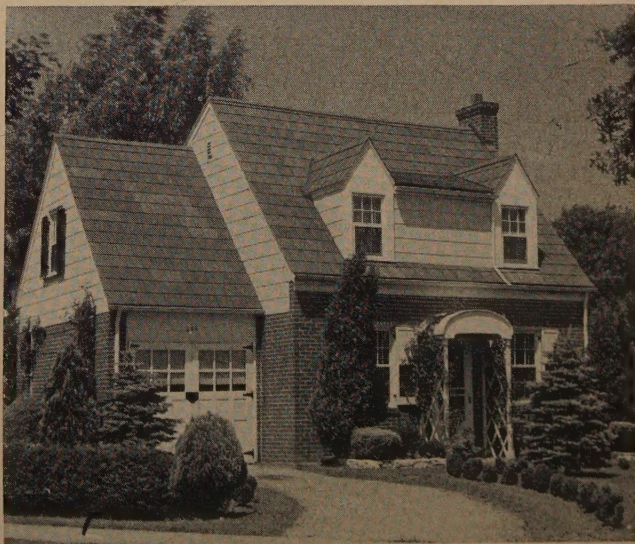
3) Increased efforts to insure the essential conditions for human dignity to an increasing number of the family of mankind (the three areas of concern being refugees, human rights, and economic and technical assistance).

4) Reduction and international regulation of armaments (Dr. Nolde suggested that “thought might profitably be given to the appointment of a small committee representing both the USA and USSR which would meet in seclusion to seek a common approach, with the understanding that no findings would be made public unless agreed upon by both governments and only thereafter submitted to the UN Disarmament Commission for debate”).

5) The international family: “every effort should be made to relate people personally to each other in the pursuit of common interests be they religious, educational, economic, athletic, or cultural.”

6) Domestic society—the responsibility of the Christian citizen and every citizen to put his own national house in order.

—H. Armstrong Roberts



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OF RELIGION



*In this article a minister, who has had twenty-seven years of happy married life, tells young couples anticipating marriage how to get*

by Robert W. Burns

## Off to a Good Start

**T**HE first year you are married probably will be the most important year you ever live together; that's one of the ideas I share with couples who come to me for help in beginning their home. "This is the time you are forming habits of how you speak to each other, what you say, and even more important, the tone of voice you use. When you don't think alike, this is the period to develop skill in *disagreeing without being disagreeable*."

So many adjustments must be made in the first year of marriage that it is always somewhat of a miracle when two persons are successful in making adjustments. Those of us who love them are eager to help, but so often hesitate for fear of intruding. One of the reasons for taking time to write such an article as this is to stimulate the understanding of the young people involved so they may be better able to help themselves.

"Marriage is for keeps, and let me help you keep it good," is the attitude of your pastor. Let your minister *really* be your minister. Nothing which seems important to you will be unimportant to him. Discuss your problems with the man who marries you, or if you live too far away, ask him to recommend a minister where you are. He will listen thoughtfully to anything you have to say and will help you understand the application of the teachings of Christ to your experiences.

"Off to a Good Start" is the subject of this article. What are the special opportunities to make the beginning of a home a success? How can we gain a wholesome life together?

The *first* opportunity you have is *the time you spend together by yourselves*. Plan your evenings and week ends to ensure plenty of hours when no one else is present. When young people live in the same community with their parents, the temptation is to spend too many evenings with relatives. It takes shared leisure to develop the attitudes on which a home grows. Well-meaning friends can also interfere, leaving the couple with too little time together.

Jesus taught, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife."

That means he is to "leave them." If there is anything fair about this, we are justified in interpreting Christ's message, "For this reason a woman shall leave her father and mother." Certainly, young couples are not to neglect or ignore or mistreat their parents, but marriage means that henceforth the primary human loyalty of the husband and wife is to one another.

The *second* opportunity is related to the *management of money*. Every home must deal with this from the first month of marriage. Three simple steps

—A. Devaney, Inc.



Young married couples should enjoy doing many things together, including routine tasks in the home.



taken at once can prevent a world of later trouble and can develop confidence between you. First, *put the facts where both of you can see them.* How much do you owe? What will the income be? How are bills to be paid? What items are to be included in the budget? Second, *agree on how your money is to be managed.* Who is to write the checks? When are you going to review your finances? Where is your bank account to be placed? Third, *make out a simple will and designate each other as beneficiaries in any life insurance you have.* In a brief article such as this, there is not room for the large number of stories about couples whose mistakes have emphasized the value of these steps and others whose happiness has been strengthened by them.

One word of caution is in order. Nobody ever made out a satisfactory budget early in marriage, just as nobody every played golf in par the first time he hit a ball. Usually, several months of experimenting with several "trial budgets" are necessary. The great achievement is not to let yourself get discouraged. Keep on trying, and eventually you will get a budget that will work.

A third opportunity is to let sex be the tie that binds your lives close together. The Christian truth is that our loving heavenly Father has created us male and female. What God has made nobody should call common or coarse or unclean. Sex is normal and wholesome and important. Most couples achieve a satisfactory adjustment early in their married life. So much has been written about the difficulties of sex that many young people are afraid of failure before they begin, and these fears limit their success. My observations would be that more than ninety per cent of couples achieve a satisfactory adjustment in sex within the first six months of marriage. See a physician if you need real help.

A fourth opportunity is to develop more mutual interests. Success in marriage depends on your shared concerns more than anything else. Here is

the real meaning of time, money, and sex. They are areas in which you can grow more toward that true unity when you will be no longer two, but one.

After the first few weeks of marriage, when the initial enthusiasms wear off, a couple settles down to the rather routine business of life. Never permit yourselves to become bored with one another.

If you have recently married, ask these questions of each other. What do we have in common? What do we enjoy doing together? What are the most important interests we share? What new activities will add meaning to our home? Do we pray together? Do we read the Bible together? Do we go to church together and serve somewhere in its program together? Some of the couples I try to help are simply bored with each other. They have lost the zest which belongs in a good home. You can keep your enthusiasm by enlarging each year the areas of your partnership.

When the best of intentions are present, a man and wife are still going to differ, sometimes so strongly that the ties between them will be threatened. Neither of you is a saint, and there probably will be times when you quarrel. If you have a disagreement about anything, put your arms around each other and keep them there. Say how much you love each other. Then still in each other's arms, say anything else you need to get off your chests. Each should listen patiently to the other without interruptions; then when all the bitterness has been expressed, with your arms around one another continuously, express again your affection. Do all your fighting in each other's arms, and it will never become too bitter.

"Happiness is possible in a home," is one idea I share with hundreds of couples. Last June Mrs. Burns and I celebrated the twenty-seventh anniversary of our marriage. When you have been married as long as we have, I hope you will be as happy as we are. Happiness is a habit. Begin it early.

## Epitaph for a Little Cat

Under this tree she used to climb,  
Grass, grow soft as a kitten's fur—  
This was the place beloved by her,  
Here let her sleep till the end of time!

Wind, remember a purring song,  
Echo it gently beneath this bough—  
Though she will never play here now,  
Here was her happiness—one summer long.

—Eleanor Hammond

## The Prayer of Working Hands

My eager hands  
At work shall take  
Untaught  
The attitude of prayer;

A robe of form  
And substance make  
For my  
Humility to wear.

—Eleanor D. Cole





# WHITE AND BLACK IN BLACK AND WHITE

by Faith Coxe Bailey

**I**T IS not news to you parents that you are shaping tomorrow's adults as you guide and teach your children today. That statement holds true for rules in racial tolerance as well as for rules for safety first. You can help to eliminate racial prejudice tomorrow by handing Jimmy the right kind of books today.

If you live in an average middle-class community in an average American town, your child will probably meet his first Negro on the pages of a book. It is up to

you, as a Christian parent, knowing the impact that books have on the eager minds of your youngsters, to see that this first book, and all the others that follow, introduce Jimmy and Susie to the nicest Negro boys and girls and men and women that they can meet.

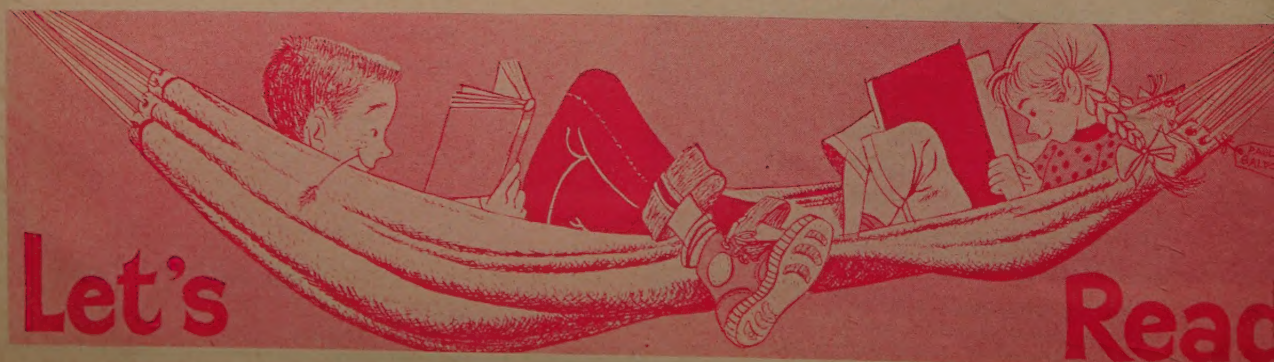
Books about Negroes range from picture books for pre-school children to novels for teen-agers in high school. Many of these are available in public libraries. Grading them according to their effectiveness in combating racial intolerance,

you can mark them all the way from excellent to neutral to worse-than-worthless. Do not think for a second that because a book is written about Negroes, it teaches the tolerance and understanding you want for your children.

Why not skim through your own library's selection? You will soon discover which ones to help your children avoid. Here are a few items to watch for as you browse.

Be on the alert for thick dialect. If your youngsters hear Pappy and Mammy chatting back and forth in

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language like "We is assemblated" and "I'se right porely," in they help it if they grow up thinking all colored people "talk funny"?

Eliminate the books about the poverty-stricken tenement-dwelling negro families. Of course, a great many Negroes live in tenements. So do a great many white people. Generally, the sordidness of the lives of poor white people is left out of children's books; so why expose the seamy side of Negro living?

Occupations can be potential dynamite, too. If Janie reads about colored maids and redcaps about the exclusion of doctors and postmen, she will soon think all Negroes belong in the servant class.

Humorous references to the superstitions of the Negro people and the emotionalism of their religion are dangerous. Sometimes they are subtle, often they are not. Maybe your neighbor who calls the colored folk "a naturally superstitious race" is subconsciously remembering Epaminondas and his untie.

Important on your check list are a book's illustrations. Be sure that the colored heroes are not "hang-dog" little chaps, with sad eyes, toothy grins, and patched overalls.

These are some of the negatives to be guarded against. There are positive features for which to look.

A first book on race might well be *Two Is a Team* by Lorraine and Ferrolld Beim, for it shows white and black together but does not mention race. A white boy and a colored boy, inseparable pals, are "just the same age" and "just the same size." They have hilariously good times together, quarrel a bit, and when they break a wagon, both learn the same lesson in cooperation. Why not read this to your pre-school children? The illustrations show one colored boy and one white boy on each page, making for granted that some children's skins are dark.

The photograph-picture book, *My Happy Days*, by Jane Dabney, the story of a colored boy's family life, should not be overlooked



either. Any five-year-old will like Rex, who plays with his sister, reads the comics, visits a Negro doctor who has a Negro nurse.

Life in Harlem, with no one dressed up, is pictured in *My Dog Rinty* by Eileen Terry and Marie Hall Ets. Rinty is a dog who is constantly getting into trouble; his master is a happy colored boy who

has lived in Harlem all his life and loves it.

Those first lessons in race prejudice have to come eventually, however. When your youngsters have reached the second or the third grade, they have learned that the boy in the next row is colored, and hence, just a little different from the others. As yet, they cannot explain the difference, but they know there is one. Books for this next age group must keep step with the understanding of a third grader.

*Melindy's Medal*, by Georgene Faulkner and John Becker, is a happy tale about a brave little colored girl. Melindy feels pretty useless, when her grandmother tells her the stories of how her great-grandfather won his medal in the Civil War, how her grandfather was a hero with a medal in the Spanish-American War, and how her father was awarded a medal in the World War I. Before the book closes, though, Melindy is the heroine in a school fire, and, of course, she wins her own medal.

*Jasper the Drummin' Boy*, by Margaret Taylor, is the story of a lively colored lad whose mother wants him to play the piano but who wants to play the drums instead. No mention of race is found in this one, but a subtle emphasis is given of the Negro's inherent love of music.

In junior high the problem snowballs. Colored boys are ignored in school elections and are not invited to the birthday parties in the biggest houses on the nicest streets. Your children may even do some of the segregating themselves. At junior high age they must read books that take hold of the issues and "pull no punches."

*Call Me Charley*, by Jesse Jackson, does this successfully. Briefly the story problem is this: Tom likes Charley, the new colored boy in junior high; George, Tom's best friend, does not. The book is a series of disappointments for Charley. Finally, he is accepted by the young people, but there is no false sentimentality in the story. The adults never change their inward feelings, although public opinion has forced them to receive



Charley in school activities. In this book your junior boy and girl will see the Negro as he is in life, constantly striving to please the white people and usually failing to win their respect or friendship.

For junior high school girls, Marguerite Di Angeli has written *Bright April*. Brownie Scout April lives through her everyday thrills, letters from big brother in service, week-end visits from sister in nurses' training, and Brownie Scout meeting with her best pal, Jewish Sophie. There is a satisfying climax with April winning the confidence of a white girl who had not wanted to sit next to her because she was colored.

By high school there are complex problems in human relations in the classrooms. Your teen-ager, reading adult novels by now as well as classical literature in his English class, will not bother with a book that fails to treat the Negro-white situation in today's schools logically, interestingly, and frankly.

For a square-shooting handling of northern high school problems

you can trust Phyllis Whitney in *Willow Hill*. The story of a white community's reactions to a nearby Negro housing project, *Willow Hill* tells about young people who do not wait for their parents to solve all their problems. Your high schooler will meet the colored athlete and the Negro girl who can paint and pull down all "A's"—both labeled "exceptions." *Willow Hill* does not forget the kind of Negro our society has formed too often—sullen and unfriendly because of too many rebuffs.

In *All American*, by John Tunis, Ronny leaves a snobbish prep school, enrolls in a city high school, looking for democracy. Despite his first disillusionments, he sees democracy in action when the football team cancels its Miami inter-sectional games at the season's end because Ned Le Roy, Negro star, will have to be benched in accordance with southern rulings.

Southern high schools present different, more tense problems in three outspoken novels. *Shattered Windows*, by Florence Means, tells the story of Harriet, used to Min-

neapolis tolerance, living with relatives on an island off the coast of South Carolina. There is no hesitation in talking about the poverty of some of the white people, the difference between the northern and southern Negro, and antagonism toward the white teacher. At the end of the book, however, Harriet has learned to love her people and promises herself she will help them.

In *Zeke*, Mary White Ovington gives a picture of the southern Negro from his own point of view. Zeke goes to Tolliver Institute, falls in with the wrong gang, but finally gets in step with the school spirit. It is a lively tale, bringing in race only because Zeke and his buddies are colored.

These books, and all the others of their caliber, cannot alone build the wall against racial intolerance. Christian parents know that a spiritual rebirth, a new creation of love for the other man, must be the foundation of such a wall; but after your firm foundation of Christian concern, why not try the right books as building stones?

## New Year's Resolutions THAT KEEP!

**E**ACH year our family made New Year's resolutions, and each year we broke them, sometimes even before the first month of the year had passed. We wondered if we were too weak-willed to practice the few simple rules which we made.

We examined the resolutions we had made the year before. Sister, aged nine, had resolved to improve her handwriting, but by the end of the year exasperated school-teachers were still trying to read her illegible scrawl.

Teen-aged Brother resolved that he would try to make his Bible school attendance more regular, but even before January had passed, he had already missed one Sunday. It was much easier to stay in bed on a cold winter's morning!

Dad had resolved to have the best garden on our street. Even though he worked hard, it hadn't turn out that way. Dad planted

such a variety of vegetables that it was difficult to keep up with all of them.

I resolved to budget my time so that all the hours of the day would not be used for housekeeping chores. I did try to budget my time, but as in other years, there just didn't seem to be enough hours in the day. At the end of the day I was tired, cross, and irritable.

After examining these resolutions, we found they all had one thing in common. We were trying to gain something *for ourselves*. We decided that to make our resolution a success, they would have to help someone else besides ourselves.

Sister wanted to improve her

handwriting, but just wanting to do it didn't get it done. The next year her resolution was more definite. She resolved to write more letters to her friends and relatives. Each of her grandparents was to receive a letter from her at least once every two weeks. Not only did she have the satisfaction of knowing she was making other people happy with her letters, but quite unconsciously her diligent letter writing improved her handwriting too!

Instead of merely resolving to attend Bible school each Sunday, Brother made his resolution even more important and binding by in-

(Continued on page 28.)





—Eva Luoma

# Forbid Them Not

by

**MARGARET CHAPLIN ANDERSON**

"ISN'T IT wonderful!" breathed Marcia Grey, her head thrown back eloquently, "to have spring-time here at last and the children out of the house? Jack and Judy just drove me crazy all winter."

"I'll say!" chortled Bootsie Turner. "Do you know I actually did all my ironing this morning without one single interruption from Billy."

Janet Bounds smiled a bit ruefully. *I know*, she thought. *I'm the one who has the interruptions from Billy now. And from Jack*

*and Judy and Ruth and Marianne and . . . .* She shook her head resolutely. *Oh, hush!* she told herself. *I'm glad the neighborhood youngsters love my back yard. After all, it's the only shady place on the street. And I'd rather have my Betsy home in her own sand pile than running all over creation.*

"It's wonderful!" she agreed aloud, pushing solemn-eyed Joan's carriage a bit faster. "No more walking around block houses or crushing plastic cars underfoot.

Hurray for spring!"

*Hurray for spring!* she thought doggedly next morning, rushing out with soapy water and spools as the daily sand battle began. *Hurray for spring!*—lifting four-year-old Jack from a frail tree branch and starting him down the slide. *Hurray for spring!*—mixing lemonade and buttering bread as fretful wails arose from six throats simultaneously.

"Honestly, Joe," she told her tall husband as they rocked their two "chicks" in the porch swing



that evening, "I run a regular nursery school every day. I hope you don't mind the house staying messy."

"Not a bit," he said. "Just keep the grub tasty and I'll never complain. I'll even take my trusty ax and chop down trees, swings, and seesaws if you say the word."

"Silly!" she giggled. "Just keep that ax out of reach. I'd hate to see the chopping those three-year-olds would do."

"Maybe it will rain tomorrow." He squinted up at the cloudless sky. "Yes, ma'am, my rheumatiz is actin' up. That's a shore sign of a long, rainy spell."

IT DIDN'T rain, and the next day Janet was again up and down the back steps at ten-minute intervals. There were even two newcomers—little sisters who stood shyly outside the fence for a long time before at last they ventured in, hand in hand.

Janet frowned a little as she saw them begin to swing wordlessly. She knew who they were. She recognized them as the youngest of the "Tripples"—the clan who lived in a sagging, unpainted house down at the undeveloped end of the street. She and her friends, passing the weed-covered lot, had often declared that it would be a blessing when a new subdivision was started so that the horrible eyesore of a house could be knocked down and its shiftless occupants forced to move.

Now, scooping up some cookies as an excuse, Janet went out into the yard for a closer inspection. The two were clean, she noticed. Their hair was combed back neatly and their dresses, though faded and unfashionably long, were freshly laundered. Their names, they told her almost in whispers, were Daisy and Rose.

"They are pretty names," she said, giving them cookies and a reassuring smile.

"Thank you," they chorused. And she went back into the house relieved.

The remainder of the morning passed with unaccustomed quiet. The children accepted the new-

comers at once, and soon the group was busily playing house. Daisy, as mother, kept her "children" so busy that there was no time for their usual brawls. *Why, thought Janet delightedly, she's a born leader! And how gently she talks! It's just what they needed.*

She told Joe about it in the swing that night. "They were wonderful," she said. "The older one, Daisy, keeps them all interested, and the little one is so jolly she keeps them laughing. I do hope they'll come back tomorrow."

They did, but, strangely enough, the other children did not. Daisy, Rose, and Betsy played quietly with an occasional burst of song or laughter. The two sisters handled toys carefully, almost reverently, as if they were precious beyond words.

Janet got her housework done and had time to read a story to the three of them. Rose pressed against her adoringly, and Janet lifted her into her lap thinking, *What a dear child she is! How sad that she has a mother who stays drunk most of the time!*

THE NEXT morning Bootsie's Billy stared wistfully through the gate as Daisy showed the two smaller girls how to draw pictures in dampened sand.

"Come in, Billy," called Janet. "Have you been sick?" Billy shook his head and began to back away.

"Come on," urged Janet. "I'll call your mommie and tell her where you are."

"No," said Billy tearfully. "Can't play wif them." And he fled back toward his own house.

Janet clenched her hands into

***Don't feel bad if you think that your child will never set the world on fire. He shouldn't be playing with matches anyway.***

fists. "They couldn't do that," she whispered. "Not to innocent little children!"

Daisy and Rose were standing as if ready to run, their anxious eyes on her face.

*Why, she thought, it's happened to them before.* She forced a smile to her lips. "Don't pay any attention to Billy," she said lightly. "Go on and play. He was only teasing."

Billy had not been teasing. She knew it before she dialed the numbers. Bootsie's voice saying, "just can't let Billy play with those children, Janet. No telling what they might teach him."

"Some manners, maybe," Janet wanted to say.

Marcia's voice saying, "We have to think of their future. I wouldn't want Jack and Judy associated with them in high school. Why their sixteen-year-old sister had a baby yesterday. I doubt if she has any idea who the father is."

Janet sank into a chair and put her hands over her eyes. Maybe she was making a mistake. Maybe she should send those two outsiders home. Surely the parents who read child-care articles and took guidance courses could be trusted to make the right decisions. She wouldn't be cruel. She would just call Betsy in now and take her marketing, and tomorrow they'd go to the park. Daisy and Rose would soon catch on. They could stay in their own back yard and play with kindling wood dolls. She rose purposefully and started for the back door.

With her hand on the knob she paused. She had a sudden vision of another little Tripple girl ten years ago being shut out of the back yards where the "nice" children played.

*If someone had cared for her then . . . , she thought. And if I shut out Rose and Daisy now, will I be guiltless ten years from now if they . . . ?*

She walked quickly to Betsy's bookcase, then out to the shade where the dark eyes still held anxiety. "Come on, little darlings," she called. "It's storytime again!"



Our husband has to retire when he's sixty-five or thereabouts.  
Mrs. Housewife, have you ever thought about retiring?

# Our Retirement

**W**HAT part does the woman play in her husband's retirement? To some it is a matter of apprehension.

"I don't know what I'll do when my husband is around underfoot all day," said Mrs. Jones.

Mrs. Smith nodded, sympathetically. "I had to rearrange my whole life after John retired. I have to be home to prepare a cooked lunch for him; he thought I talked too much on the telephone; I had to give up my bridge club because he didn't like me away at the other girls' houses; he didn't like women 'yackety-yacking' as he called it, in our place; and he thought my art class was silly. Yes, 'I've had it,' as the kids say, since John retired!"

"It's hard on a man, though," said Mrs. Jones. "Pete even hates to think of it."

"What are you doing to help him?" Mrs. Blake asked with a smile. The other two looked at her. "Your work will be practically the same," she went on, "but his has stopped, and his whole life has to be readjusted. It is much harder for him to sleep later, not to catch the commuters' train, and to remain at home all day, than it is for you to have him around. He sees you going about your usual work, cleaning, cooking, planning the various household activities, while his whole routine has been disrupted. Why don't you plan to retire also?"

"What?" yelled Mrs. Jones. "Why, I couldn't do that!"

"He felt he couldn't either," Mrs. Blake pointed out, "but he had to."

Mrs. Jones was thoughtful, and they could see by the serious look on her face that she was realizing the enormity of what Mrs. Blake had suggested. "Mr. Blake retired a few years ago," she remembered. "What did you do?"

"Well," said Mrs. Blake, "first of all we faced it several years before it actually happened—right after Betty married, in fact. With college for the boys paid for, and the boys out of the home on their own, and our only daughter's wedding paid for, we began to plan for the years after Don's retirement. We saved where we could, comfortably, investing the money in government bonds, and term insurance spaced to pay off each year after his retirement. Then we bought a small house in the suburbs and rented it. Over the years we remodeled here and there in our big house, making it into three apartments. Then when he retired, we moved into the small

house—but not right away. We were starting life over, I reminded him, a new relationship which would need readjustment just as our married life had in the beginning. So we took money from our savings which had been set apart for that purpose, and we took a long trip. We came back to the little house furnished with mostly new furniture, but some of the treasured or favorite old pieces. Our little house has a garden in which we both work and raise flowers and vegetables, and we have one or two fruit trees. There is always painting, minor repairs and the thousand and one things one can always find to do around the house. We do them together. We read together, one of us reading aloud while the other has some kind of handwork. We have a record player, a radio, and a television set which supply our musical interests. Then, also before he retired, we began building up a group of friends not dependent upon his position, aside from his business and professional friends. I belong to the women's club, and

(Continued on page 28.)

—A. Devaney, Inc.



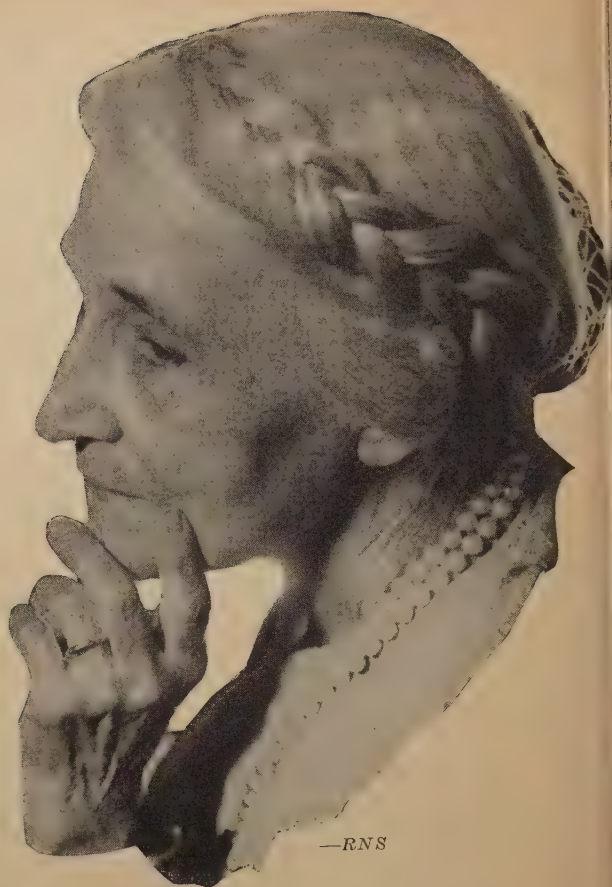
When both husband and wife retire, a renewed companionship develops between them.



# They CAN Be Helped at Home

by Harvey Bartle, Jr., M.D.

*It is no disgrace to be mentally ill any more than it is to be physically ill. In this article a doctor gives us pertinent facts and good advice in dealing with this problem of mental illness.*



**T**HERE is probably no medical condition which is less well understood by the public than that group of illnesses which are generally termed nervous, emotional, "queer," or neurotic. The lack of understanding is especially apparent in the families of these patients and in turn often makes the patient's situation more difficult or embarrassing. Many misconceptions are frequently expressed to the physician by members of the immediate family, much poor advice is often given by persons woefully lacking in understanding, and sometimes attitudes are developed which affect the whole future of family and other group relationships. Members of a family should be alert to the responsibility and opportunity to help anyone in their midst who is disturbed nervously or appears to them to be agitated or depressed. The rising tide of emotionally and mentally disturbed persons in our

population is alarming. It can be retarded and lessened if proper care is started early in life and if proper medical attention is sought when minor changes are noted. When a member of the family shows a change in behavior, look into the matter. The home is the garden spot for observation and early care, and good mental health should be the result.

From the standpoint of history many false concepts have established themselves over the years, such as witchcraft and demoniacal possession. Frequently a "holier than thou" attitude is expressed by nervously ill persons. People with such an attitude do not realize that nervous illness is no respecter of intellectual level, economic status, color, creed, or political belief. Those who are well should, when they see a person with a nervous illness, realize that, except for the grace of God they could be similarly afflicted. A

common belief is that a nervous or mental illness is disgraceful, a stigma that should be hidden from other people at all cost. Great progress has been made, and this progress has been publicized and emphasized; but unfortunately many persons have not advanced correspondingly in their thinking. This is noted especially in the situation where some one suggests a psychiatrist, and members of the family or friends immediately say "this person is not crazy," not realizing that psychiatry is interested in all problems of adjustment.

On the bright side, however, more and more people are seeking help for emotional disturbance and personality changes from physicians qualified to render assistance. As more families recognize the need and the availability of help, the trek to below-standard advisers will gradually disappear. The family's recognition of per-



onality disturbances or behavior disorders and their attitude toward them is the primary step in the modern treatment of all kinds of nervous problems. The shielding and glossing over of observations noted may result in serious consequences such as suicide, sex crimes, and even murder. As in any illness the earlier treatment is begun, the better chance the patient has to recover.

The first important concept for the family to understand is that an emotionally ill person is just as sick as someone with pneumonia, heart disease, or a fractured leg. Merely because the illness is emotional, the person who is so afflicted should not be set apart from others and thus stigmatized. It is true that this person may be hard to handle, more difficult to live with, more perturbing to the household than those afflicted with any of the other illnesses mentioned; however, it must be realized that these are symptoms and are part of his illness as much as fever is a symptom of pneumonia, or pain, of arthritis.

The second and probably more important concept along the same line is that the individual is usually not responsible for his emotional disturbances and cannot recover voluntarily. Time and nature may serve to reverse the illness. One hears advice given to patients such as "Snap out of it," "It's all up to you," "You will soon be all right, old man," but if that were the case, there would be no need for further help to handle such problems, and the science of psychiatry would never have been developed. Sometimes nervous patients are responsible for their illness but sometimes, too, people are responsible for becoming victims of pneumonia, heart disease, or a broken leg. The family should, therefore, learn that conclusions cannot readily be drawn and that "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Such perverted ideas on the part of the family may cause the patient to feel considerably worse for a short or a more prolonged period of time.

The third concept of value to families is that of not giving the

patient too much sympathy. This may result in continuing his illness for an undue period of time. The general attitude toward emotionally ill persons should be one of kindness but firmness. One sees people who, because of an increased amount of attention, sympathy, or care on the part of families and sometimes professional persons, literally "enjoy poor health." This may at times be emotionally or financially rewarding to someone but is not good for the patient. Too much attention or too much emotional attachment is just as bad for the patient as an attitude of desertion.

## Snap Judgment

A photo of a pretty miss

Will often rate a slur

From other maidens, quick to swear

The picture flatters her.

But—take a pic of some poor gal

Less easy on the eyes

And though the likeness is exact

She'll swear the camera lies.

—IDA M. PARDUE

The family may also be of help by adhering and trying to have the patient adhere to a good general program of physical and mental hygiene which, in its simplest form, consists of good wholesome food, regular meal times, regular hours for rest, recreation, and work in a generally well organized household. I can recall some years ago when I had a patient in the hospital who was making good progress. When his mother and father came to see him, they each brought a book, and during their visit all three persons read. No conversation passed among them. This did not appear to be a wholesome family relationship. Where

children are involved, the matter of good family organization is even more important than with adults, as the lack of it may lead to the establishment of living patterns which are not desirable and which may never be changed. Also, feelings of insecurity in the child will impede his future progress and perhaps cause him to function below the level of his basic capabilities.

Another point for the family and friends to keep in mind is that giving advice to persons with nervous illnesses is a dangerous thing. The advice itself is usually not good, the patient gets little or no benefit from it, in fact, often misinterprets it, and if three or four people give advice, the important features may be diametrically opposed. I recall having heard with amazement a medical school professor make the statement to a class many years ago "If you are ever sick, please put a sign over your door 'God save me from my friends.'" I have long since learned what he meant by this statement. This is not only true of nervous illnesses but of all illnesses. I knew a patient who was admitted to a hospital with a broken hip. A nurse, who walked with a limp, was assigned to her case. The patient asked, "What is the matter with you?" "Oh," said the nurse, "I broke my hip when I was a child, and it has never healed properly." To the warning regarding advice might be added "gratuitous information." The least the friends and the relatives say to a person about his illness the better off he will be, and the energy so spent by the friends should be used to keep the patient occupied and interested in something outside himself and his medical problems. It is important for the family and others interested in the patient, such as lawyers, ministers, and friends, to cooperate with the physician in charge of the case and to help carry out the program which he has outlined. An uncooperative person who happens to be respected by the patient may cause confusion or may delay the patient's recovery.

(Continued on page 30.)



# Hobbies for Shut-Ins

by Loie Brandom

**I**T HAS been said that a hobby is the best medicine for maintaining an individual's creative energy. Hobbies prevent loneliness and a feeling of uselessness. The body grows old or sick, but the mind and spirit can continue to feel young. Old age is just as much a period of life as is youth. So regardless of physical handicaps, hop on a hobby that interests you, and ride away into an entrancing new world of your own making.

There are many hobbies from which a shut-in can choose; subjects so absorbing, when one's interest is really captured, that hours fly by almost unnoticed; hobbies whose enjoyment can be carried on in a limited space, if necessary, even in one room only.

No doubt you have read of bed-ridden people who have carried on lucrative businesses from their beds with the help of a telephone. Taking magazine subscriptions, selling cards for birthday remembrances and other occasions, and soliciting orders for big mailing concerns are a few of these.

One bed-ridden veteran derives both pleasure and profit from teaching young parakeets and parrots to talk. A totally blind, seventy-year-old widow has four hobbies. They are a collection of over nine thousand buttons, the cultivation of rare flowers, the carving of potato mashers and spoons from wood, and the knitting of rugs. She keeps the colors separated by counting the stitches.

One crippled writer carried on her work from her bedroom and each week produced a syndicated column, in addition to other articles and short stories. When the pain would become so intense that she had to rest her back in bed, she would continue to write, holding her portable typewriter on a light board laid across her chest.

Leathercraft, wood burning, bead work, and the making of costume jewelry with silver and copper wires are all splendid hobbies that bring in money as well as satisfaction.

Weaving on hand looms, various kinds of fancy-work, soap sculpture, sewing, and basket making with raffia are all hobbies which shut-ins can enjoy.

One shut-in who had access to many newspapers and trade magazines had the hobby of clipping various kinds of articles and information from the daily and weekly papers, and filing them under appropriate headings. These collections he often sold

to writers who wanted information on certain subjects. This information would be more recent than any that could be obtained from encyclopedias or other published works. He also had a few clients among movie stars for whom he collected clippings about themselves and their performances for their scrapbooks.

Another shut-in did beautiful work re-silvering articles of silverware brought to him, while still another did superb artistic work coloring photographs and snapshots supplied her by a photograph gallery and a camera shop in her locality.

The dressing of dolls has become an absorbing hobby for some shut-ins, and this is a hobby on which one can spend as little, or as much, as one pleases. Some famous museum dolls are garbed in dresses of gold cloth incrustated with real diamonds, pearls, and emeralds, but dolls can also be beautifully dressed with scraps of materials which can be found around almost any home. Hand embroidery and dainty stitches play a big part in making these articles works of art.

In many cities there is a charitable organization which makes an annual drive for the collection of dressed dolls to be given to needy children at Christmas time. The shut-in who has doll dressing for a hobby can do a worthwhile service by donating to this cause.

One of the most rewarding hobbies, as far as enjoyment and satisfaction are concerned, is the study of the Bible. There are so many ways in which the Bible can be studied; it is one hobby that never becomes stale or loses its interest. The Bible can be studied for its poetic beauty by the hobbyist who likes poetry, and for its historic value by the historian. For biography the Bible describes the lives of the great prophets, kings, and heroic characters of past ages of the world's development.

For solace in times of trouble, for encouragement to the discouraged, as a map for those who are uncertain about their future course, or doubtful about their own powers to succeed in their undertakings and reach their goal, the consolation of the Bible and the accepting of its many promises is perhaps the most worthwhile hobby one can cultivate.

A hobby can give a shut-in a new interest in life, forgetfulness, for a time at least, of pain and sorrow, a respite from worries, and refreshment mentally and, perhaps, physically.



*You and your relatives may not see eye to eye on many issues, but you can still maintain peace, harmony, and love in your clan. This author tells you through personal experience how it's done.*

# DISAGREE — BUT LOVE

by Kathleen Marling

**M**Y OLDER sister, who lives in another state, laughingly remarks that each visit she pays our household is worth at least fifty dollars to me in articles I will write about her! It is this delightful sense of humor she possesses that has helped us through the years to bridge differences in social, religious, political, and economic opinions.

It occurred to me after her last visit that here indeed in this very matter of living and loving with differences was a subject for an article. The facts that are about to be shared here, therefore, are entirely true, but as the preface on television scripts always says, "All names are changed in order to protect the innocent."

The "innocent" in our case include our two sons and two daughters, my husband's mother, who has lived with us since our marriage, my own mother, residing in another state, my sister and her husband, and some assorted aunts, uncles, and cousins. My father, who died in 1944, more than any of the other adults involved, had that rare faculty of disagreeing impersonally, unemotionally, and often silently.

The problems that my husband and I have faced in rearing our children with different concepts from those with which we grew up are those that come in a time of change such as the last twenty-five years. Our education, our new experiences, and especially our social interpretation of Christianity led us to break with or adapt many notions and customs of our youth. Whereas our relatives continued to live in their familiar environment holding on to past traditions and opinions, we moved into a circle



—RNS

Joey loves his Aunt Mabel—even though she is a dyed-in-the-wool Republican, while his parents are staunch Democrats.

of friends who were engaged in religious education or in promoting social welfare.

Out of our own soul-searching—and we didn't change overnight—we accepted the conviction that all men, regardless of race, color, or social position, are God's children,

and that as brothers we should work toward bringing an abundant life to all.

Our youngsters were ahead of us, for they were still in that born-without-prejudice state. I shall never forget the day Hal and Jean were so fascinated with Charley,



the Negro working in the yard, that they insisted on taking their lunch out to eat with him. From the beginning they emptied their banks to aid suffering that they heard about at home or church school. At public school they chose their best friends as frequently from the less privileged industrial settlement outside of town as from our own neighborhood.

We determined to keep them that way, yet not mar their love for their relatives who held different viewpoints. Disliking people's ideas without disliking the people themselves is a test of maturity.

The infrequency of our contacts with distant relatives simplified that problem. With the grandmother under our roof, however, we concluded that we must take a firm stand, believing that the attitudes of our children were more important than complete accord with her.

It was on the racial issue that we ran into the most difficulty. When, during World War II, we invited a little Japanese-American girl into our home to attend our vacation church school, Grandma was cool but not openly hostile. It would have been hard to harbor animosity toward a gentle, artistic, polite child like Toshi. Above all things, Grandma prides herself on being a lady, and she does love children. As Toshi became a reg-

ular visitor to our house, Grandma gradually melted.

But she was not ready for the next step. Through his work my husband met Phil, an intelligent and interesting young Negro printer. As a grade school correspondence project, our daughter Alice wrote to Phil while he was in service, and he sent her souvenirs. When Phil returned from war, therefore, we invited him, his attractive wife, and his mother (one of the most gracious ladies we have ever met) out to our suburban home for dinner.

It took my husband several hours of pacing and planning his approach before he finally said to his mother: "We're having a Negro family to dinner Sunday evening." If he had confessed murder, she could not have been more shocked. "I wish I had died a year or two ago," she intoned dramatically as she retired to her room to mope.

Sunday evening found her traveling twenty-five miles into the city to hear a speaker on Christianizing Asia. As for our children, their attitude was summarized by Hal after the guests departed: "They're about the nicest company we ever had!"

This beginning plus continued association and teaching has brought our quartet through childhood into youth with the habit of

judging persons on their own worth rather than on their color or nationality background. Entertaining foreign students in our home has been particularly valuable.

We could not control Grandma's mental processes, but we did expressly ask her not to use the word "nigger." She cooperated. We could not be so specific with relatives outside the home. Instead, we explained to the children: "Your grandparents, your aunt and uncle, and your cousins grew up believing that white Americans are better than anybody else. They do not mean to be unkind. They are too old to change their ideas now. They have a right to their own opinions, but we just won't pay any attention to them." We went on to point out that in some of the family members, decline in their social and economic standing had made them look for a scapegoat to feel superior to.

With that preparation we could trust our offspring to visit their relatives without fear of unpleasantness. They learned how to put on an interested look and say "h-m-m," when Cousin Edna described the nerve of colored children riding their bicycles right down her street and when Uncle Jack said he wouldn't pay his money to go see "niggers" play baseball. Tolerantly, humorously, and yet with a touch of pity, the children would report these incidents to us. Our comradely feeling in such matters has strengthened our own little family circle unity.

Politically we found ourselves arrayed against Grandma and all the close relatives almost as sharply as on the racial question. Here, again, we tried to show the children how strongly tradition and feeling are entrenched in people's political attachments. Grandma could disapprove of taverns, racketeers, and slums and yet vote for a candidate maintaining them simply because he was on her ticket.

Fortunately, she does not get emotional on politics. That is left to my sister and brother-in-law, and Cousin Edna, and her family. I always have to cushion our visits extra well in national election

This man and his grandchildren enjoy a wholesome, affectionate relationship in spite of racial and religious differences.

—A. Devaney, Inc.





ears. Cousin Edna relays distorted stories about the personal life of our candidate, designed to show that he really isn't of a "good family" (as she is). Aunt Marie and Uncle Jack are worried about "radicals." You're radical if you approve of federal dams, labor unions, and foreign aid. In fact, you're almost a "Communist."

Since that is also a rather common attitude in our suburb, we've used it to try to teach our children that misunderstanding and calumny often are the price of progressive thinking; that good government needs the check of two-party differences; and that a career in political service can be a truly Christian calling. (Ted, our youngest, is considering it.)

As I have suggested, the social, economic, and political concepts of our relatives are all pretty much bound together. The best example of that came during Marie's last visit. Officer in a national patriotic women's organization in her city, she recounted the discord that has entered because, of all things, a labor union leader's wife with proper credentials had been admitted! Not that she doesn't seem harmless enough, but she might try to get her friends in, and anyway, "We just don't stand for the kind of America the labor unions do."

On religious beliefs our family differences have not been intense. We have been fortunate in having to refute few superstitious ideas of Jesus and God. When Grandma does express a view not backed by biblical scholarship, we wait quietly till we can clear it up with the children.

Our chief difference with our relatives comes at the point of our trying to emphasize Christian action rather than form or creed. It is at that very point when relatives have pinned us down on any of the other issues—radical, social, economic, political—and we have answered, "What do you think Jesus would do or say about it?" that their assurance deserts them.

To summarize our rules:

Stay off controversial issues. Become adept at diverting conversation, at smiling and mumbling non-committally. "Is that so?" "I'll

declare!" "I hadn't heard that before" can stave off many a clash. Throw in humor and the light touch, mixed with affection for those who differ.

But on occasion, where a direct answer is called for or where to remain silent would seem to uphold outright injustice, stand up and be counted. Children respect courage, and strangely enough, even the opponents are impressed by sincerity. My sister especially has come to accept our "oddities" and makes no effort to change us.

Indeed, relatives may soften with age. (In some ways our grandmothers are more open-minded than our middle-aged kin.) The last time we had Negro guests in for a Sunday evening, Grandma was conveniently occupied in baby sitting at a neighbor's. But she accepted the event as casually as though we were entertaining Mayflower descendants.

This year, when her great-nephew brought to America his

young Japanese wife and two babies, she was ready to receive them! (Toshi's influence?)

As for my own mother, thanks to the teaching and preaching in her own congregation, she, at eighty-five, watches the Negro church women of her southern town come in to her church dining room to eat with the white women while she helps prepare the meal! When she visited me last summer, I took her to my church to hear a charming Negro woman singer and speaker, just back from a world friendship tour. My mother was so moved that she said, "Take me up and introduce me. I want to shake hands with her."

Yes, changes toward greater social, economic, and religious brotherhood are on the way. The children we are rearing can hasten the Christianizing process if we but set their feet in the right paths when they are young. That glorious possibility is worth risking family disapproval for!

## Who Sheds a Tear

Who sheds a tear for lonely folk  
And others in despair.

Who eases pain in troubled hearts  
And gently says "I care."

Who knows the simple beauty of  
A lovely meadow flower.

Who lives with kindness in the world  
And cherishes each hour.

Who loves the laughter of a child.  
The songs the woodlark sings.

Who loves the rippling of a brook.  
The chimes the steeple rings.

Who in the peace of eventide  
Takes time to bow and pray  
Thanking God in heaven for  
The gift of each new day.

The man who blesses other men  
With love that knows no ration  
He in return receives the love  
That flowers from compassion.

## New Year

The curtain rises, loud bells peal  
As hidden wheels start turning  
To set in motion that new reel  
Toward which all hearts are yearning.

Expectantly the people wait  
An untouched film's unreeling,  
Adventure, sorrow, joy, and hate,  
Each bring distinctive feeling.

The aged vainly hope to see  
Slow motion, backward holding,  
While youth outruns impatiently  
The picture's swift unfolding.

—Bessie Wolvington

—Sue Heron





# Baby

by Doris Clore Demaree

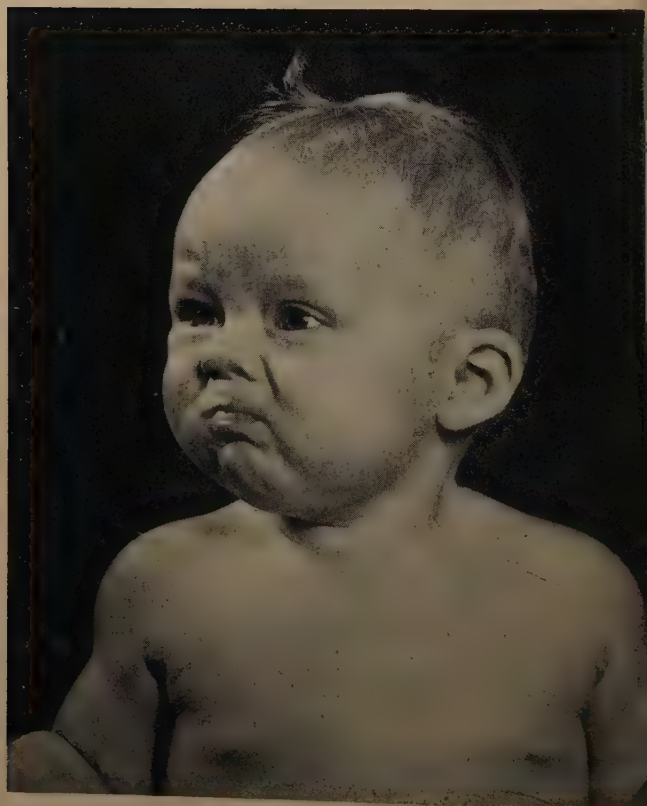
PHOTOGRAPHS BY FREDERICK LEWIS

1

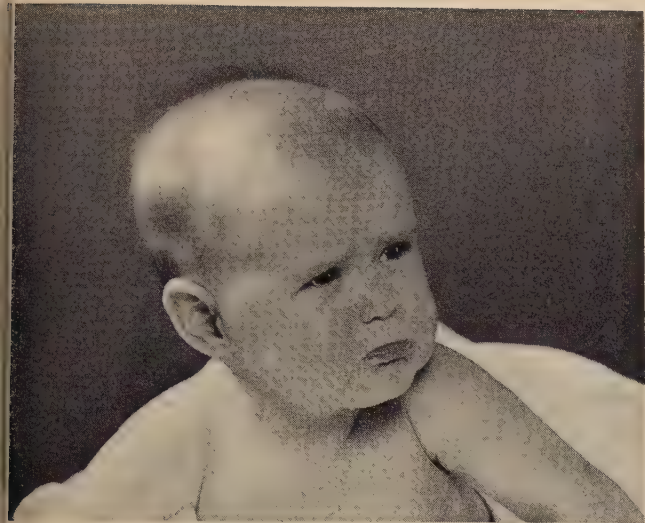
Baby in the bathtub—  
Baby in his bed—  
Baby in his high chair—  
Yawns and shakes his head.

2

Doesn't like his rattle—  
Doesn't like a rose—  
Doesn't like his kitty-cat—  
Wrinkles up his nose.







3

Puckers up at Mother—  
Cries at Daddy, too—  
Can't be pleased with anything—  
Wonders what to do.

4

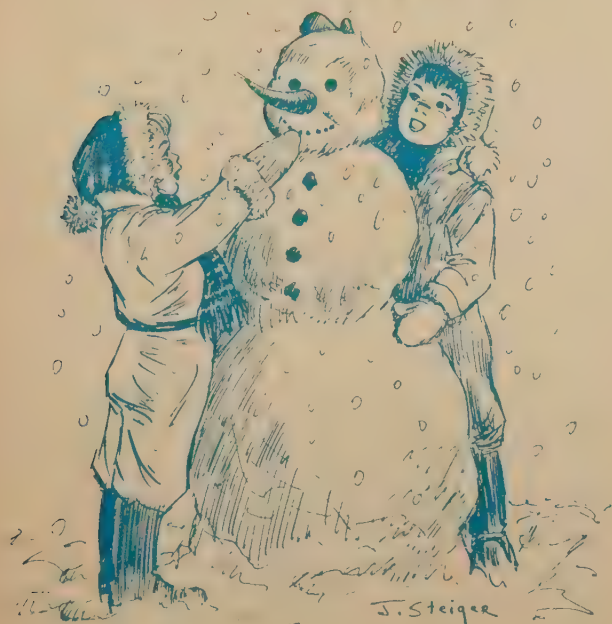
Looks around for someone—  
Looks around for you—  
Listens while you're talking—  
Thinks he's talking, too.





# Party for a Snowman

BY MAITHEL MARTIN



**J**EANNIE and Kathy are two little girls who live in a big house. Jeannie is taller than Kathy, and she is older. They are sisters.

These two little girls have a nice swing in their big yard. They also have a pool to wade in. A swing and a pool are fine things for summer, but in the cold winter time they are not so good. In the winter Jeannie and Kathy play in the snow.

One winter morning Jeannie looked out the window and saw some snow on the ground. There was a lot more of it falling from the sky. It looked all fluffy and soft and white.

Jeannie said,

"Kathy, look at the snow! Let's see if Mother will let us make a snow man." They ran very fast to ask Mother about it. When Mother said they might go play in the snow, both little girls jumped up and down and clapped their hands.

Mother told them to be sure to put on warm clothes so they would not get cold. They did not forget to put on their coats or their leggings or their caps or their gloves. They almost forgot their snow boots, but Mother said,

"I know something you have forgotten." The two girls thought and thought. Then Jeannie said,

"We would get snow in our shoes if we didn't put on our snow boots, and we forgot them." They put on their boots, and soon they were running out in the snow. They were going to make a fine snow man.

Did you ever make a snow man? Jeannie and Kathy had made one before; so they knew just what to do. They made their snow man the same

way you do. First of all they made a big ball of snow. Then they made a middle-sized ball of snow and set it on top of the big one. Last of all they made a smaller ball and set it on the very tip of the big ball. That was the head.

Kathy said, "Our snow man needs some eyes. Both girls looked and looked. They found two stones that could be used for eyes.

Then Jeannie said, "Our snow man needs a nose." Guess what they used for a nose! Kathy asked Mother for a carrot. They put half the carrot in the middle of the snow man's face and called it the nose. What a strange, long, funny nose for a snow man to have!

"What can we use for a mouth?" asked Jeannie. The girls looked and looked. At last they found some bushes with berries growing on them. Both girls picked some of the bright red berries and pushed them in the snow man's face just where the mouth should be.

The snow man was finished. Now they could play with him and have a lot of fun.

Now, if girls and boys stay out in the cold snow too long, they will get red noses and red fingers, and sometimes their noses get snuffy. Jeannie and Kathy's mother called them, for she knew they must be getting cold. Mother called, "Come in the house, girls, and perhaps we can have a little party."

Jeannie and Kathy wished they could play longer, but they liked the little parties Mother let them have, so they ran over to the snow man and said,

"Good-bye, little snow man. We would like to play with you some more, but we must go in now. Then Jeannie had an idea. She said, "I think the snow man would like to have a party with us. We can carry him into the house, Kathy."

Since Mother was in the kitchen, she did not see

(Continued on page 28.)



# Worship in the Family with Children

Theme for January:

**GOD'S WINTER WORLD**

## A WORD TO PARENTS

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *Secret Place*, you may find that some of them fit into the meditations in that booklet.

## To Use with Younger Children

Praise the Lord!  
He gives snow like wool;

he makes his wind blow, and the  
waters flow.

—Psalm 147:1, 16a, 18b.

The waters become hard like stone,  
and the face of the deep is  
frozen.

—Job 38:30.

## Enjoying God's Winter World

Jerry was playing in the snow. He was having a good time. The snow was cold, but Jerry was not cold. Jerry had on a warm snowsuit. He had on a cap that covered his head. It covered even his ears. He had a bright red scarf tied around his neck. He had on boots which kept his feet dry and warm. He had on mittens so that he could pick up the snow and not feel its coldness.

The crisp winter air made Jerry's cheeks pink. His nose got a little cold, too, but Jerry did not mind. He was having fun in the snow. He thought he would make a jolly snowman.

Jerry was glad for his warm clothing, too. He liked to dress in his warm snowsuit to play in the snow. Mother told him that one reason his snowsuit was warm was that it was made from wool. Wool comes from sheep. Jerry thought of the sheep on his grandfather's farm. "I am glad for sheep," said Jerry to himself. "When I get through playing in the snow, I will ask Mother to tell me a story about the sheep on Grandpa's farm. Or, maybe she will read to me *Pelle's New Suit*.<sup>1</sup> I am glad for winter. I can have fun outside playing in the snow, and I can have fun inside, playing and looking at books. Winter is fun. I am glad God planned for winter."

Are you glad, too? What are some of the things you like to do in winter?

<sup>1</sup>*Pelle's New Suit* by Elsa Beskow.



## In Winter

Bread and milk for breakfast,  
And woolen frocks to wear,  
And a crumb for robin redbreast  
On the cold days of the year.

—Christina Rossetti

## Something to Do

Are you putting crumbs outside for the birds? It is hard for birds to find enough to eat in winter when the ground is hard or covered with snow. You can help God take care of birds if you remember to put crumbs outside for them to eat.

## Prayer

Thank you, God, for winter. I am glad for warm clothes to wear. I am glad for my family who help to take care of me. I am glad for happy times in winter. Help me to remember to do my part to take care of birds. Amen.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The lambs are for thy clothing.*—Proverbs 27:26.

\* \* \* \* \*

—Bob Taylor



## Two Little Lambs

Jerry liked to go to Grandpa's farm. There were always interesting things to see and do.

Almost as soon as Jerry arrived, Grandpa would suggest something to do. One time he said, "Jerry, would you like to go with me to see the twins?"

"The twins?" said Jerry. "Where do they live? Are they as old as I am?"

Grandpa laughed. "No, these twins are not as old as you are, but you probably will have fun watching them and helping me to care for them while you are here this summer."

"Oh, Grandpa," said Jerry, "do you mean you have twin calves?"

"No, not calves," Grandpa replied. "The twins are lambs."

Grandpa and Jerry started toward the barn.

"Oh, look," exclaimed Jerry. "Are they the twins?"

"Indeed, they are," said Grandpa. "What do you think of them?"

"They don't look much like twins," said Jerry.

Grandpa laughed. "Would you like to feel the thickness of their wool? I want to see how long it will be before we can shear them."

"What do you mean—shear them?" questioned Jerry.

"We clip the wool from sheep every year. We send it to market. Then it is combed, cleaned, and made into thread or yarn. The thread is woven into cloth which is used to make clothes to keep us warm in winter. The yarn can be used to knit sweaters, caps, and mittens to help keep us warm, too," explained Grandpa.

"How do you know to do that?" asked Jerry.

"Man discovered long ago that the wool from sheep is good to make warm clothing. That is part of God's good plan," replied Grandpa.

"Do the sheep like to have their wool cut?" continued Jerry.

"Oh, they do not act as though they do. They act a little frightened while they are being sheared, but once it is over, they are more comfortable and more wool grows in time to keep them warm in winter, too," answered Grandpa.

"Have you named the twins, Grandpa?" asked Jerry.

"No, I haven't. Would you like to?" asked Grandpa.

"Yes, I know just the right name for them. Let's call them 'Frisky' and 'Sleepy'," said Jerry.

"Those are good names," agreed Grandpa. "Another winter when you are playing out in the snow, you can remember Frisky and Sleepy and be glad that they grow nice wool to be made into warm clothing like your snowsuit."

"Yes," said Jerry. "I'm glad God planned for sheep to help people keep warm in winter."

Are you glad, too? Do you know which lamb Jerry named Sleepy?



# To Use with Older Children

## Blessings

I thank Thee, God, for the blessings  
That come to me each day,  
Food to eat, clothes to wear,  
Time for work and play.  
I thank Thee, God, for the home  
My parents make for me,  
Where I am taught to pray,  
And to serve and honor Thee.

—Kathleen Elsmore Clarken

## A Verse from the Bible

Honor your father and your mother.—Exodus 20:12.

## Prayer

Dear God, I am glad for winter. Help me to see the beauty of the world in winter. Help me to think of ways to be happy and to make others happy both indoors and outdoors in winter. Amen.

## For Family Worship

Call to Worship: The Doxology

Song: "All Beautiful the March of Days," *Christian Worship*, page 588 (or some other favorite hymn of the family)

Scripture: Praise the Lord!  
He gives snow like wool;

He makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.  
(Psalm 147:1, 16a, 18b)

The waters become hard like stone,  
and the face of the deep is frozen.

(Job 38:30)

God . . .  
does great things which we cannot comprehend.  
(Job 37:5)

Poem: "Blessings" (on this page)

Song: "For the Beauty of the Earth" (or some other favorite hymn of the family)

Prayer: Let each member of the family contribute to the prayer, especially emphasizing things for which to be thankful in God's winter world.

## Happy Times Indoors

When you look at the picture above, you possibly think first of the snow. The picture may help you to think of happy times you have in the snow—



sledding, skating, making a snow man, and feeding birds.

As you look again at the picture, the column of smoke may help you think of some of the happy times you have indoors when it is cold and snowy outside.

Not all homes have an open fireplace any more, but inside your home there is warmth and protection from the cold. If you do have an open fireplace, it is fun to watch the bright flames. The fireplace is a good place for the family to gather to tell stories and to have their family worship.

A winter night is a good time for the family to gather around the piano and have a happy time singing favorite songs. You can teach your favorite church school songs to the rest of the family on such evenings.

It is fun to share hobbies on winter nights. Maybe your family is interested in studying the stars. On clear winter nights, you can continue that study, making notes of the locations of various stars and planets that are different in winter and in summer.

Some other things to do to have happy times indoors are playing games, reading books, listening to music, looking at pictures, making articles, sewing, pasting, cutting, carving, drawing, and painting.

I am glad God planned for families. I am glad we can have such happy times together. Aren't you?





"The Bible is a book of values and meanings that give guidance to all our human strivings," says Mrs. Gebhard. Here the Gebhard family is assembled for a period of Bible reading.

# LET'S FI FAMI

WHERE is my book? My precious, precious book!" the four-year-old wailed as she took up the search for her most treasured possession. Hearing the little girl's crying, her mother left the ironing board, and her father left the study desk to aid in the search for the precious book.

What do you think they were looking for? It was a big book with small print and many pictures, but it was not the family Bible—or even the child's Bible story book. It was the Sears Roebuck catalogue!

America has lost its "precious book," too. And thousand of families, like the four-year-old, turn to the catalogue, or the telephone directory, or the television guide, or the Sunday newspaper to seek the answer for their needs. They turn away unsatisfied.

How desperately America needs to find its family Bibles. Shoved to the darkest corner of the bookcases, or left to gather dust in an out-of-the-way place in the living room, the book that might satisfy no longer casts its spell of influence upon our culture. If we do turn to the Bible, we read it privately, or expose ourselves to its public reading at occasional church services on Sunday mornings. Using and enjoying the Bible is a habit in few families.

We've lost something important. We've lost more than a book of history—though the Bible gives us a sweep of human history that allows

us to view the present human scene with a clear perspective. We've lost more than a book of poetry—though the Bible contains the greatest poetry conceived by the mind of man. We've lost more than an ancient lawbook—though the basis of the laws of our nation and of the United Nations rests firmly upon the ethical code exalted in the Bible. We've lost more than a great biography—though every book of biography upon our shelves stands in judgment before the lives recorded in the Bible. We've lost more than a document of human freedom—though every declaration of human rights and personal worth rests upon the fundamental human relationships spelled out in the Bible. We've lost more than all these things put together. For the Bible is the living record "of man's unceasing quest for God, and God's unceasing quest for man."

The Bible is a book of values and meanings that give guidance to all our human strivings. The Bible holds the key to our salvation and lights the pathway to abundant life. Little wonder without the Bible, we grope through encircling gloom.

At one time in our culture the Bible was textbook, storybook, entertainment guide, game book, as well as moral authority and power for daily living. True, that pioneer culture was limited, but its foundations were firm.

The Bible has stiff competition

today, but with a certain plaintive wistfulness we still keep it at the top of the best seller lists. We buy it—and treat it more like a treasured collector's item than a daily source of power.

How can we make the Bible as much a part of daily living as the morning newspaper or the televised weather report? We feel certain it would leave a greater blessing on the day if only we could find workable methods of utilizing its resources.

In the first place if we want the Bible to have a greater influence on our family lives than the headline news or the comic strips, we have to turn to it as frequently. *We must use it for daily guidance.* Devotional moments at the breakfast or at the supper hour are blessed beginning—but they aren't enough.

Leading psychologists and ministers who deal with sick minds and spirits, like Dr. George Crandall and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, attest to the practical usefulness of the Bible in maintaining spiritual poise and mental health. Positive affirmations that assure us of God's continuing presence should not merely be read. They should be learned and repeated at frequent intervals during the day—whenever we feel that need of uplifting and sustaining power. They should be so much a part of our constant thought that they sink into the subconscious and transform attitudes, habits, and dreams.



# R BLES

*A-hunting we will go—to find the family Bible and to rediscover the power and faith in this Book of books which inspired our forefathers.*

The Bible used as an ever-present guide will permeate our speech and transform our relationships.

Using the Bible is not a "spectator sport." It isn't some skill from which we can receive benefit and enjoyment by watching someone. It's more like playing a musical instrument. Learning to use it effectively requires discipline and practice, but the rewards are great. Make a game with your children of memorizing choice passages of scripture. Make a set of name cards with half a verse of scripture on each card (verses carefully chosen for their enduring worth), and let the family play games of matching the verses correctly. Repeat a favorite psalm together occasionally to begin or to close your family worship, or as a call to prayer before you sing your table grace. Discuss the meanings of obscure words and phrases or of verses that have grown overly familiar as you sit at the table or visit informally. Such discussions may send you or your children hurrying to the dictionary, the Bible concordance, or commentary, or to the Bible itself for help. Find time for such exploration, for real discoveries come to the curious.

One mother, eager to have the great truths guide her family's day, posts a "thought for the day" on the family bulletin board from the Book of books. In another home, where varying schedules mean that the family does not

breakfast together, the mother opens the Bible on the family worship center at a choice passage of scripture, which she hopes will guide her family throughout the day. Each person in the family pauses sometime during the day for moments of reflective reading and worship.

Only by sharing our religious heritage with our children in the daily round can we expect the Bible to influence their thoughts and actions. Though we know little about the Nazareth home in which Jesus grew up from the scant gospel records, we can be certain that the stories of the Hebrew people reveal God and that the great moral truths proclaimed by the prophets were mingled with the daily talk in that home. Turn to the conversations and teachings of Jesus: so naturally does the message of the prophets and the religious experience of his people bubble forth from his speech that it is most difficult to say, "This he gleaned from his religious heritage," but "This truth is his own matchless insight."

Television, radio, the movies, and comic books have not made family story hours old-fashioned. Those intimate times of family sharing when our little ones seek the security of our faith and love still call for story hours. In our secular society Christian parents have an important responsibility at such times.

We'd be disappointed to have our children grow up without knowing Cinderella, Jack and his beanstalk, Alice in Wonderland, the nursery rhymes and folk characters who enlivened our own childhoods. We need not be concerned, however; the school curricula, the library shelves, and the dime store book counters see that there is a constant supply of these.

When it comes to the great religious characters—Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Peter, the little lost sheep, the good Samaritan, and the Christ himself—the home and the church alone must tell their stories and interpret their matchless truths. Though not included in the public school curricula and largely overlooked by mass media of information and entertainment, the Bible is still the world's greatest storybook. As Christian parents we have a responsibility to share it with our children.

We have help. Never has the Bible been published in such attractive format and easily-read printing; never have Bible storybooks been available in such lively and attractive dress as they are today. Church school lesson materials are produced today with an eye to the home, anticipating that parents, as well as church school teachers, will use them in guiding the growth of children. For many of us they are an untapped source of guidance in opening the Bible at home.



Moreover, recordings of exciting Bible stories and of great passages of scripture produced by outstanding dramatic artists and casts are available for home use.

Whatever the helps and resources available to us as parents

—and we are blessed with them—there is no magic for possessing the Bible; there is no easy road to its discovery and use. It takes more than multiple printings and popular editions to guide us in finding and using our Bibles. Our spiritual needs are deep and per-

sistent, our faith needs constant to be aroused, and our imaginations need to be kindled. When we bring to Bible study our needs, our faith, and our imagination, we can discover and use the greatest treasure we possess for the enrichment of family life.

# Study Guide

## I. Preparation—

A. Select a committee to work with you in planning the meeting and in further study.

1. Ask one member to review the article and be prepared to raise other questions suggested by it in addition to those raised by the author.

2. Ask someone to arrange a book display of

a. Books that will help parents in using the Bible at home, such as, *Let's Read the Bible*, by Clinton; *The Bible and You*, by Blair; *The Story of the Bible and How to Read the Bible*, by Goodspeed; and *Enjoying the Bible at Home*, and *Guideposts to Creative Family Worship*, chapter five, by Gebhard.

b. A collection of materials from the American Bible Society particularly adapted for home use, such as the reading records, the illustrated gospel portions (three of them are in the RSV), are guides for finding help with special needs.

c. A collection of children's Bible story books recommended by your church school leaders or by your pastor for home use. (Consult your denominational catalogue also.)

d. Which of the above books are available in your church school library? In your public library? In the bookstores of variety store counters of your town?

3. Ask your pastor or a church school leader to prepare a display and demonstrate how to use standard Bible tools: the concordance, the commentary, the Bible atlas, harmony of the gospels, etc. How can they be of value to a family interested in exploring the Bible? Where are they available?

4. Select someone to find out and report to the group:

a) What policy does your church school have for making Bibles available to children whose families do not have Bibles? For promoting the use of the modern speech translations and the recommended Bible story books in the church school and the home?

b) How many homes in your church use the Bible regularly? How is it used? For family worship? Personal worship and study? Story Hours? Other ways?

5. Have another committee member find out and report to the group:

a) A list of passages of scripture that will help to maintain spiritual poise and mental health. (See Peale's *The Power of Positive Thinking*, the chart in "Enjoying the Bible at Home," or information from American Bible Society leaflets.)

b) A suggested list of scripture passages that a family should know well enough to repeat from memory. Discuss in the group: How many of these do you use at home?

c) What Bible stories should be used with preschool children? What Bible stories will primary children particularly enjoy? Juniors? Youth? (See Smither: *The Use of the Bible With Children*.)

## II. The Meeting—

A. Present the problem by having the article reviewed.

B. Discuss the following questions (you may wish to have a panel represented by a parent, a church school teacher, a pastor, and a community

## When Children Come With You

Plan to have a leader who may:

**Conduct a story hour.** Stories may be found in this magazine, in the primary and junior story papers, and in books borrowed from the public library, the school or church library.

**Guide in making articles.** Suggestions are sometimes given in this magazine, in the primary and junior story papers, and in books, such as *Here's How and When*, by Armilda Keiser, and Miss Frances' *Ding Dong School Book*.

**Direct games.** Suggestions are sometimes given in this magazine, in the primary and junior story papers and in books, such as *Children's Games from Many Lands*, by Millen, and *Games for Boys and Girls*, by Harbin.

**Lead a missionary project.** For information, Baptists may write to Miss Florence Stansbury, 152 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York; Disciples, to Miss Carrie Dee Hancock, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.



der lead in the discussion, then open discussion for the general group):

1. What evidences are there in present-day life that we have lost our family Bibles?

2. Does the moral confusion of our time have any relation to the neglect of the Bible?

3. Would wider use of the Bible make any difference in the stability of modern family life? How?

4. Do you see any evidences that

there is a renewed interest in the Bible in our American culture?

5. Are there dangers in having children memorize scripture? What are they? What are the values?

6. How can our church encourage parents to make fuller use of the religious resources in church school lesson materials?

7. What other ways of using the Bible in family life have you found effective?

C. Have those responsible for the displays discuss the books in their displays.

D. Have those who have prepared reports present them.

### III. What Our Group Can Do—

A. Arrange a display for the church of Bible tools, storybooks, and interesting Bibles themselves.

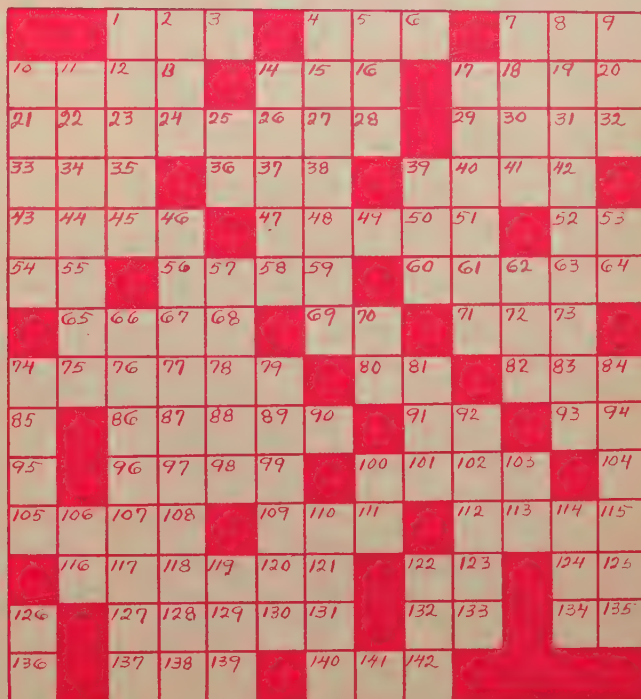
B. Find out what television, radio programs, and recordings about the Bible are available in your area.

## BIBLEGRAM

*By Hilda E. Allen*

DIRECTIONS: Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicate word endings.

Reading from left to right, the filled pattern will contain selected quotation from the Bible.



Strangled -----	58 21 114 34 26 111
A lawless person -----	37 50 20 11 109 60
What countries other than ours are called -----	133 30 61 121 97 129 15
In good physical condition -----	130 57 10 24 43 72 82
Queen Elizabeth's chair -----	120 86 31 49 102 126
Money paid for education --	12 38 62 71 40 68 25
Score -----	124 105 77 98 13
Sum -----	75 140 53 95 70 131
Blazed -----	104 99 14 46 117 139
Stirred up -----	33 55 80 119 27 73 136
Moves restlessly -----	17 128 115 134 64 51 91
Where the winner is -----	107 138 63 113 118
Two words of gratitude (two words) -----	3 44 18 56 59 9 5 23

*Solution on page 28.*

N Two and a dozen -----	22 92 84 89 6 67 87 4
O Twelve inches (two words) -----	83 123 35 81 94 135 90
P Baby tender -----	28 122 65 74 45 108
Q June fourteenth -----	29 1 47 112 42 141 52
R Desirable part of the chicken -----	96 101 32 66 76 8 41 2
S Scarcely -----	125 88 116 16 7 93
T Comical -----	100 54 142 110 36
U Easter animals -----	85 137 39 48 19 79 127
V Went to another place -----	68 132 106 78 103



# Problems are a Part of Normal Growth

by Helen Thomson

—Harold M. Lambert



"Come to Aunt Lucy, dear," Auntie coaxes her small niece—but the young relative does not wish to obey. A few months ago, however, she would have greeted Aunt Lucy with open arms.

**M**OST parents harbor the hope that some day there will be no more squabbles among the children, no more sudden tearful outbursts, no more fussing about school—in fact, no more of any of the garden variety troubles that frequently disrupt the peace and harmony of almost every family's household.

"Does everybody go through the hullabaloo we do?" Father asks Mother when the youngsters are finally in bed after an interminable rainy Sunday.

The answer is yes, every family struggles with the same problems, and it is safe to say that that any variations are a matter of *extent* and not of *kind*.

Many parents never get reconciled to the fact that as a child grows out of one set of problems,

the chances are he's heading into a new batch. These are the parents who hope that Johnny will skip the show-off stage and that his adolescence—in contrast to his cousin's—will be serenely uneventful. Well, the chances are Johnny will skip nothing, and his parents will be wise if they focus their energies on helping him with his troubles rather than in devoting themselves to the hope that he will escape the problems that come to almost every youngster, well-adjusted though he may be.

Other parents worry needlessly because they are not aware of the kinds of difficulties their children are likely to run into at a given age.

"My husband and I are worried sick about Mary," Mrs. Mc-

Clure tells her pediatrician. "No matter what we say or do, she still domineering and stubborn and self-centered. She has to be first in everything she does. If she can't win the games another way, she cheats! And on top of that, she cries at nothing. . . ."

The doctor interrupted. "Wasn't Mary six in June? Your description is pretty typical of a good many six-year-olds."

There are mothers and fathers who do not fully realize that every child goes through periods when the pressures he feels and the problems he faces make him hard to live with. Yes, every child has problems to deal with. Whether he copes with them alone, unaided and bewildered, or whether he has the emotional support and guidance of those who love him is determined by his parents' attitudes.

The eminent psychiatrist, Dr. William Menninger, has said that family life should be a proving ground where a youngster can test his reactions. If family living is going to be an effective proving ground, it has to be the kind of life in which children are reasonably free to show their feelings, for the purpose of getting help in learning how to handle them. Most parents feel that much display of emotion on a youngster's part is a reflection of his upbringing. On the contrary, the child who reflects faulty rearing is much more likely to be the "model" youngster who is docile only because he is too fearful of disapproval to do anything wi-



s feelings except hide them. This does not mean that youngsters have to be "brats" in order to have plenty of spirit and self-assurance. It does mean, however, that most normal youngsters are "brats" on occasion for the reason that they do not yet know how to handle their feelings. So when Billy has a temper tantrum, the ideal course of action is for his parents to try to figure out what upset him. The next time a similar situation arises they can handle it more easily. Anyone who thinks this is an easy assignment, however, is somebody who has never tried it!

Most children outgrow the behavior that parents see as problems. Jane, like most toddlers, was unable to share when she was a two-year-old. By the time she was four, however, she was inviting all the children in the neighborhood to use her sand-box and her swings. Jim's parents worried because Jim, at thirteen, was a virtual recluse who spent his free time in his room with his radio and his books. By the time another year had passed, Jim was fearlessly busy with his gang, his school activities, and Scouts. That is often the story with thirteen- and fourteen-year-old boys.

Parents do well to remember that growth is not a steady, even process. Much behavior that looks like back-sliding is nothing more than part and parcel of normal growth. Martha's mother was considerably upset when her charming, self-confident little three-year-old became at three and one-half a much more fearful, apparently less secure little girl than she had been at two. She grew shy with guests and cried when her mother left her with a baby sitter—unheard of behavior for Martha. Martha's mother would have been saved a lot of worry had she recognized that Martha was going through a stage very usual in children of about three and one-half.

Bruce's mother had a similar experience. During his "youngster" days Bruce had always been a friendly little boy with a winning, responsive manner. When

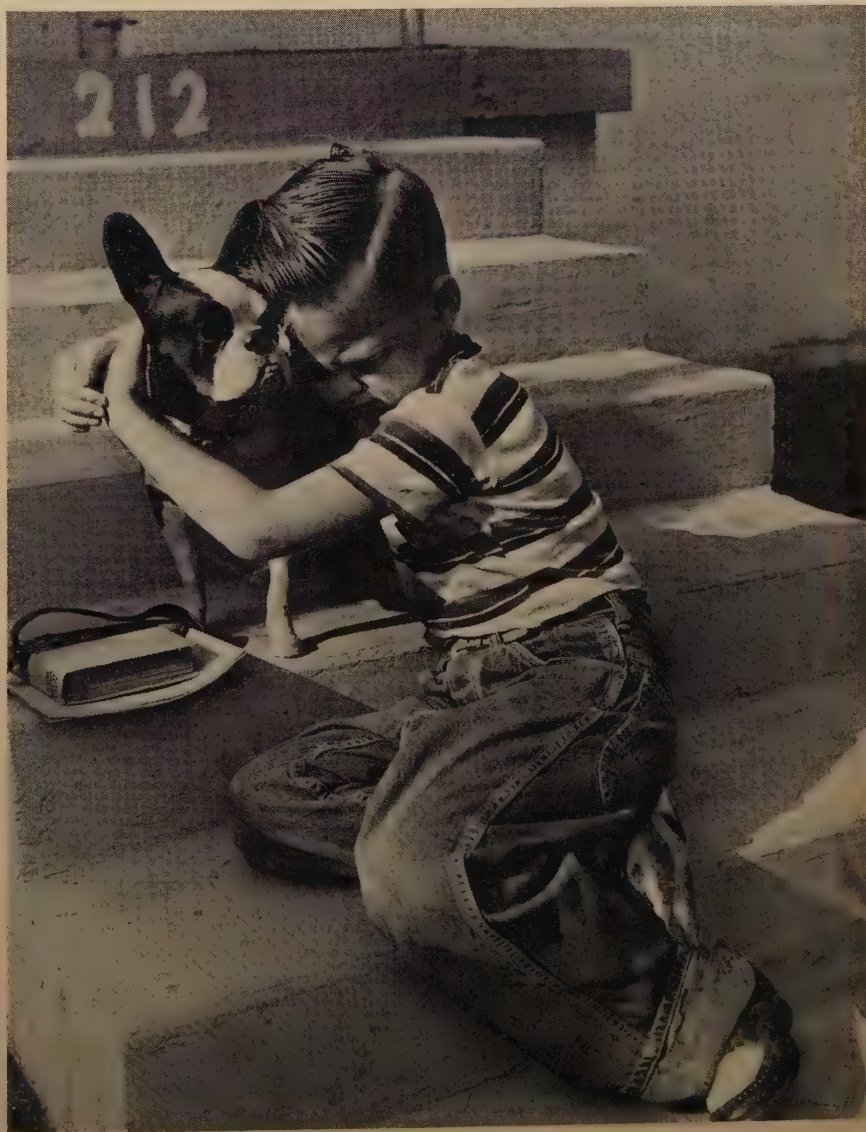
Bruce was about seven, he changed. All his responsiveness and his quickness disappeared. He had to be warned and reminded and urged even to get himself dressed. What's more, he developed what his parents felt was a lamentable secretiveness, so unexpected in Bruce, of all children. Many seven-year-olds become so absorbed in their inner loves that they have little energy for things outside themselves. All their mothers' promptings to feed the dog and to bring in the skooter do more than get the chores done, for they serve the very worthwhile purpose of keeping a pre-occupied youngster in touch with his every-day world.

All these difficulties can be a

part of normal growth, and for the most part the parental role is to stand by with understanding, patience, and affection: In the majority of instances time will do the rest. It is well to note that parents' understanding of why their youngsters act as they do does not obligate mother and father to put up stoically with all kinds of behavior on the part of their offspring. Ruth's parents may well realize that a tendency toward sullenness is often a part of being eleven years old, but the fact remains that if Ruth cannot be other than cross and ill-natured today, she had better spend the afternoon in her room, away from the rest of the family.

(Continued on page 30.)

-RNS



This young man, who doesn't want to go to school, finds solace in his dog. "He used to love school," his mother wails. "Why did he change?"



## New Year's Resolutions That Keep

(Continued from page 6.)

viting someone to go with him. Or he arranged to give someone a ride to Bible school and church. It was impossible to stay in bed when he knew others were depending on him. Soon the habit of attending his Bible school classes regularly made him have a new interest in his church work.

Dad's resolution was pure vanity! This year instead of wanting the best garden on our street, he decided to "plant enough tomatoes for everyone on our street," and he did. Not only did he have tomatoes for everyone in the neighborhood, but when he started sharing tomato plants and passing out bags of tomatoes, he, too, was the recipient of more plants and the fruits of his neighbors' gardens. He and the other amateur gardeners had lots of fun comparing "green thumbs." At the end of the year, he said, "I don't know whether I had the best garden on our street, but I do know I had more fun with it than in any year in the past!"

After examining my own resolution to budget my time, I discovered the reason I had become such a household drudge was that I wanted everything in the house done just my way. I had failed to consider the other members of the family. Habit had finally left all the household decisions up to me. Instead of resolving to budget my time and then working at a gallop to get each chore done in the time allotted, I decided, instead, to let the other members of the family have a voice in house-keeping decisions. I soon found that Sister thought it fun to clean kitchen cupboards, especially if she could go to the variety store and choose the shelf paper. I didn't always like her choice, but I kept my thoughts to myself. After all, it was her home, too.

I also found that Brother didn't mind making his bed, when I didn't criticize the lumps here and there. Again I kept quiet. If Brother didn't mind a few lumps in his bed, why should I? After all he was the one who had to sleep in it.

By not being such a finicky house-keeper and by considering my family's feelings and likes and dislikes, I not only felt more rested and happy, but I knew they were happier, too.

From experience in making New Year's resolutions, we've found that when you consider only yourself, you are sure to be heading for trouble. Make New Year's resolutions that involve other people in a constructive way. In this way you are not only helping others, but you are also helping yourself to a big slice of happiness in the New Year!

**From a four-year-old:**

**"Heaven is a place where watermelon doesn't have any seeds."**

## Our Retirement

(Continued from page 9.)

he has a lodge affiliation. The rest of our contacts are mixed men and women. When the little house bores us, we get travel folders and take a trip. We stay away until the house looks inviting to us again. If one of us wants to go to town for the day—frankly, to get away from the other for a short time—we just announce, "I think I'll go into town," and go, with no questions asked, and no explanations necessary. Every time I go off on a shopping spree or a concert, and every time he goes to town to see the old gang in the office or to have lunch in his old haunts, we tell each other about it because we want to share our experience."

"You always did do things together, though," said Mrs. Smith, enviously. "John and I never did. He never told me anything about his work. I only know he worked hard, leaving on the 8:10 and sometimes working in the evenings until late. He was always too tired to go places with me in the evenings or on Sundays. We didn't even go to church together."

"Don never talked much about his work," Mrs. Blake recalled. "I knew, however, when he had had a difficult day or when his day was satisfactory. During the evening of an easier day we would go out for entertainment. We always went to church together, and we joined a Bible class when the children were going to Sunday school. In fact most of our friends are those we met through church activities."

Mrs. Smith gathered up her things and prepared to leave. "That wouldn't work with John," she said flatly. "He doesn't want to do anything but lie around the house and sleep and loaf, and it bothers him if I do anything but that!"

Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Blake exchanged glances after she had gone. "I'm afraid she's right," Mrs. Jones sighed. "But maybe Pete and I have time to follow your plan. I hope so. Pete was saying only last night how fast John Smith is going downhill. He said, 'That's what usually happens after a man retires.' It made me shudder. It certainly isn't true about your Don, though. In fact Pete mentioned how well he's looking."

"I'll tell you what," said Mrs. Blake. "why don't you and Pete come to our house for dinner, when Pete doesn't have to go to work the next day, and we'll talk the whole thing over."

Mrs. Jones gave her friend a swift hug. "IT'S going to work out," she said. "You've made me look forward to—our retirement—with pleasure!"

## Party for a Snow Man

(Continued from page 18.)

the girls come in the front door with their friend, the snow man. When they got him in the door, Kathy said, "The snow man is very cold. Let's

put him in front of the fireplace so can get warm." So they did.

Mother called the girls to come the kitchen for some good wa cookies and milk. It takes a long time to eat cookies and to drink milk, as the girls were away from the living room for a long time. All the time the snow man was getting warmer and warmer by the fire.

When the girls had finished eating and had washed their hands, they too Mother by the hand and led her to the living room. Kathy said,

"Mother, we forgot to tell you that we brought a playmate to our party. He is by the fire getting warm. Mother looked very much surprised and she said,

"Oh, girls, if you have someone waiting for you, you should have asked him to have some cookies with you. Never leave your guest waiting while you eat." Jeannie and Kathy both laughed very hard. They knew the snow man could not eat, and they knew their Mother would be surprised when she saw who their playmate was.

But when they got to the room, it was the girls who were surprised, because they could not see their friend snow man. They thought he would be waiting.

Mother said, "Where is your playmate?"

Jeannie and Kathy both tried to talk at once and said, "We brought our snow man in the house to our party. We were going to have a fine time with him. Now he is gone. Where could he be? Snow men can't walk!"

Mother walked close to the fire. She saw a big puddle of water in front of the fireplace. In the middle of the puddle was half a carrot, some red berries, and two small stones. Mother knew what had happened. Do you know?

Here is what Mother said to Jeannie and Kathy:

"Snow men like it very cold. You and I do not.

A snow man always runs away whenever he gets hot!"

Next day Jeannie and Kathy made another snow man. Do you think they brought him into the house?

## BIBLEGRAM SOLUTION

Biblegram on page 25

"Let not loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them about your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart; so you will find favor and good reputation in the sight of God and man." (Proverbs 3:3-4)

*The Words*

A Choked	H Amount	O One foot
B Outlaw	I Flamed	P Sitter
C Foreign	J Aroused	Q Flag Day
D Healthy	K Fidgets	R Wishbone
E Throne	L On top	S Hardly
F Tuition	M Thank you	T Funny
G Tally	N Fourteen	U Rabbits
	V Moved	



# Books for the Hearthside

## FOR ADULTS

Nothing is more interesting than people, and **This Is Norman Brookshire**, an Unvarnished Self-Portrait (MacKay, Co., New York, 1954. 307 pages. Price, \$3.50) bears evidence to that fact. The author is a well-known figure in whose identification signal is the title of the autobiography. An introduction by Norman Vincent Pearle testifies that this is an excellently written, exciting story of one man, his ups and downs and ultimate victory over one of the worst of modern "diseases," alcoholism. The author is nothing back in this soul-searching story of his own victory to alcohol.

Another helpful but small book for parents is **It Takes One to Grow**, by Marguerite W. Brown (United Church of Canada, 1953. 93 pages. Price, \$1.25). The author combines her experiences and training as a mother, a psychologist, and an educator in offering this practical book of guidance. The book may be used by an individual or by a group of parents for group study and discussion. It is written from a definitely Christian point of view as it discusses discipline, emotional development, recreation, and social growth, sex education, and the nurture of responsibility in growing persons. Helpful discussion questions are included, as are suggestions for additional reading.

Louise A. Stinetorf, author of *White Witch Doctor*, a book popular a few years ago, now gives us **Beyond the Hungry Country** (J. B. Lippincott, New York, 1954. 352 pages. Price, \$3.50). Here again the story of missionary work in Africa is related with an honest sincerity and a realistic recognition of the fact that even missionary feet are made of clay. It is also a good story of Africa, its people, and their customs. This new book is written with the same vividness that marked her first popular book. The book is based on the author's own experiences and the experiences of missionaries and friends.

The Penningtons, a mythical family created in the fertile imagination of writer Basil Partridge, have returned to a new book entitled **Larry Pennington** (Westminster Press, 1954. 133 pages. Price, \$3.50). Larry P. whose father died when he was a young lad, is the youngest son of the Pennington family. The novel tells the story of Larry's growth and education from 1917 to 1923, relating his experiences in the army during World War I and his search to find his place in life. Larry inherited a good deal of his mother's drive, personality, and wit, all of which contribute to the exciting quality of the story.

Grace Noll Crowell, popular poet and devotional writer, has written another book of devotions for women in **Riches for the Kingdom** (Abingdon Press, 1954. 126 pages. Price, \$1.50). Each meditation begins from a scripture passage, relates that passage to modern life, and concludes with a searching prayer. Many of the devotions include original poetry by the author. These pages are inspiring for personal use, and they may also be used as bases for devotional periods at meetings of women's groups.

Families are always looking for help for family fun. Another excellent book by Helen and Larry Eisenberg, **The Family Fun Book** (Association Press, 1953. 188 pages. Price, \$2.95) will help you "play together anytime, anywhere." There are games for every room in the house including the sick room, games for outdoors and away from home, games with friends and with other families. Here is a good resource for those who want to experience the truth about "Being a Family Is Fun."

"Much in Little" might well be the slogan of the Public Affairs Pamphlet Series. The following numbers give you "The Best in Succinct Summaries" on some important topics. **The Stranger at Our Gate**, No. 202, by Hubert H. Humphrey, Jr., gives a searching analysis of our immigration policy and explodes five persistent myths about immigration that still rule the minds of too many people.

**Medical Research May Save Your Life!** No. 201, by Gilbert Cant, tells the story of the thrilling progress of medical research in developing the weapons to fight and to control eventually the many diseases of mankind. **What Educational TV Offers You**, No. 203, by Jack Mabley, shows the tremendous possibilities which TV has for educational purposes. It should help citizens to see the value of this instrument for mass education.

**If I Marry Outside My Religion**, No. 204, by Alergnon D. Black portrays the difficulties and complexities of life when two people of different faiths marry. **Do You Need a Lawyer?** No. 205, by Kathryn Close, points out when and why you are likely to need legal help and suggests how to seek it. **Your Stake in Social Security**, No. 206, by Arthur J. Altmeier, who has had eighteen years' experience in administering the program, evaluates current criticisms of and proposals for amending the present Act. **Children in Court**, No. 207, by Helen W. Puner reveals the inadequate job most courts perform in helping the 385,000 children that appear in our nation's courts each year. Parent groups will find a study of this pamphlet challenging and stimulating.

All of these pamphlets may be secured for twenty-five cents each from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 East 38th St., New York 16, N. Y.

## In a Garden

What better place to pray than in a garden,

On bended knees when tending beds of flowers?

For here, they say, God walked at earth's creation,

Walked softly in the cool of evening hours.

And here at dawn the light is first reflected

Through perfumed petals and in colored bloom.

So, like the Master, I would seek a garden,

And leave the shelter of a cloistered room.

It may be noon will find me therein kneeling,

With fingers digging deep where green things grow.

The passerby will say, "She tends her flowers."

But, oh, my soul needs tending too, I know.

So whether dawn or dusk will bring the leisure

To go apart and give my garden care,

I'll cherish every consecrated moment

Within the place where kneeling leads to prayer.

—Greta L. Rose



## They Can Be Helped at Home

(Continued from page 11.)

With the above things in mind more persons with nervous illnesses of a mild nature can be helped at home by those who are living and working with them. More severe nervous illness is a difficult problem and often requires hospitalization. Mild nervous illness, however, is so common that perhaps almost all of us have a "bout" of it occasionally. Many members of society will be happier, healthier, and more worth-while citizens if the public can learn to apply the principles mentioned above. "There is no place like home," the song writer tells us, and every physician is familiar with the old refrain "When may I go home, Doctor?" It is, therefore, only right that the patient should have the best conditions possible at home. The normal American home where kindness, harmony, and honesty prevail is the best place for a child to be reared, for a well adult to live, and a mildly nervous person to receive the care which should speed his recovery.

## Problems Are a Part of Normal Growth

(Continued from page 27.)

Most mothers and fathers are aware that the average youngster lags in some area of his development and that time will rectify the situation. Parents often feel better, however, if they can actually do something to help their child through a stage in which he appears to be having a little trouble. This end of mildly stimulating a youngster's emotional growth can very often be achieved by a discerning use of gifts. Louise's mother felt that Louise was far too much of a tomboy for a twelve-year-old girl. The gift of a permanent and a very feminine party dress worked miracles on the score of stimulating Louise's interest in becoming a young lady. It was after he got his stamp album that Bill's school grades improved, for then he felt he had a "real" reason for being interested in geography, reading, and spelling. When Bobby's parents got him an electric train for Christmas and mounted it on a piece of fiberboard in the basement playroom, Bobby began asking friends in after school—something he had never done previously.

Neither should parents resort to self-torture when they fall short of their conception of how a parent should perform. There is probably no parent who has not on occasions scolded his offspring for behavior that would have passed virtually unnoticed on a day when he wasn't worried or overtired.

No, parents don't have to be perfect to rear their children successfully. Furthermore, they can save themselves much wear and tear if they will remember that in the course of normal development, children usually behave in ways that can be alarming, as well

as trying, for their parents. Such behavior can be written off as emotional growing pains. As the experts in the child guidance field tell us, without struggle there is no growth, and without growth there cannot be the emotional maturity we have such need of in our world today.

by Mildred Col

## This Is the Way We Did It . . .

# Wait a Week!

Jeff, at eight years old, was a spendthrift. The thrill of parting with his money was the motivation, judging by the important way he handed the money over the counter and the fact that the purchase itself was often discarded in a matter of minutes.

He must have this compass, that pair of snowshoes, a wrist watch, or a book on magic. Experience was no teacher in his case, and since he used his own money, we often felt like a pair of heels, denying him the right to buy what he so dearly desired. Besides, we ourselves were often unwise in our purchases and were subsequently disappointed.

We hit upon this plan and found

that it worked for both age levels.

"Wait a week," we'd tell Jeff. "If you still want it, you may buy it." More often than not, another "it" came the consuming desire before the week was over.

Light dawned on Jeff. The time came when he'd say, uncoached, "I still want it next Saturday, I'll buy it."

Once our word was given we never retracted. Occasionally, the fad lasted the prescribed week and, if it did, we were pretty certain the transaction would be worth while.

Jeff became a discriminating buyer instead of a "spendthrift"!



"Look, Mom. Now Pop's nose is lavender."



# FAMILY COUNSELOR

OUR five-year-old daughter doesn't take her part when playing with other children. When one of her playmates hits her she calls "Mamma." Should I tell her to hit back? If not, what should we do? So, one of her playmates always wants to be boss and wants to be first in everything. Our daughter stands back and lets the other girl go ahead with everything and does just what she says to do. Does this mean that our daughter will always be a follower and never a leader? We want her to be able to get along with other people but we would like to see her take her part. When she is old enough to go out into the world on her own she will have to fight her way. We are wondering if we should encourage her to do so now. Or how should we handle this problem? We have tried to teach her to share and take turns. Maybe we have gone too far in this teaching.

TWO OR three comments may be in order in connection with your questions. In the first place, it should be realized that children, as well as adults, vary considerably in their aggressiveness and in their demand to have their own way. Those who are less aggressive may, as you imply, become followers rather than leaders as the years go by. Should it not be recognized, however, that a good follower is as essential to society as is a good leader? Furthermore, is it not also possible for one who is temperamentally more of a follower than a leader to reap as much satisfaction out of life and perhaps accomplish as much good as a more aggressive contemporary? If your daughter seems to be developing into a follower, accept her for what she is and encourage her to get the most out of life all that she can.

On the other hand, it should also be realized that most people are leaders in certain situations and followers in another. For that reason, I would suggest that if possible you get your daughter into play situations where this more dominant neighbor child is not present. If you do, you may find that she is much more of a leader with other children than you thought. It is important, too, as the years go by that you should help your daughter achieve certain skills and abilities that rate high with those of her own age. If she has these, it is more or less inevitable that certain leadership opportunities will be given to her.

I hesitate to suggest that you encourage your child to hit back when other children hit her. Would it not be possible to figure out other ways of positive reaction for her when she is hit by another child? I realize, of course, that this may be difficult. I certainly would not scold or punish her if she should

hit back occasionally when she is "jumped on" by other children. Let me suggest, too, that perhaps a little bit more adult supervision might be helpful. Furthermore, when your daughter calls to you when she has been hit, do not comfort her too much, but simply direct the children into other activities. If your daughter finds that a fuss is not made over her when she is hit, she may decide to deal with the situation in her own way. You are quite correct, of course, in not wanting her to be a door mat for the other children.

*Donald M. Maynard*

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

It would be hard to find a younger great-grandmother than Mrs. Walter Batog, of Hammond, Indiana. She became a grandmother at twenty-nine, when her daughter, Mrs. Gilbert Swing, gave birth to a daughter. Now, the granddaughter, Mrs. Arthur Ledwinka, has a daughter.

\* \* \*

John Harding, Syracuse, N. Y., was excused from jury duty after it was discovered that the plaintiff in the accident damage suit to be decided was his daughter, the defendant, his wife.

\* \* \*

Dr. and Mrs. William A. Mathews had good reason to smile the other day after their graduation from the University of Maryland. Dr. Matthews had just obtained his M.D. degree as top man in the university's medical school. His wife, Virginia, was the top student in the school of nursing.

\* \* \*

Benjamin Gobin, Harrisburg, Illinois, is the fourth of seven brothers to break his back in four years. He fell at work in a power plant. George and Roy Gobin suffered broken backs in separate coal mine accidents. Brother Oscar fell 119 feet while at work on a Hammond, Ind., building. All of the brothers lived, but the other three brothers can't help wondering who's next.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Cox, of Winterville, N. C., named their eleven children Zylphia, Zula, Zadoek, Zeher, Zadio, Zenobia, Zeronald, Zesely, Zeola, Zeora, and Zelbert.

HAROLD HELFER





### ***React to the Impact!***

An article in *Adult Leadership* for September, 1954, by Martin Maloney raises the question, "Television Has an IMPACT?" His answer is that television of itself has no impact. There is much more in the article that is worth pondering, but our concern here is simply with his answer to his own question.

Of course, he is right. Television has no impact of *its own* which is like saying that an electric light bulb has no light of its own. A baseball bat has no impact of its own. An atomic bomb has no impact of its own as long as it is resting inertly on the stock pile.

Push the switch button, however, and the bulb has a light, to serve the purpose of the switch-button-pusher. Put the bat in the hands of a Willie Mays and—Wow! What an impact! Drop the atomic bomb from 30,000 feet in the air and—God help us all! What a horrible impact!

By the same token television has a tremendous impact. It is probably safe to say that on certain minds it makes a greater impact than a book, a comic book, a radio, or even a movie.

This is not to say that television's impact is always bad. Whether it is good or bad depends upon an almost infinite number of factors—too many to discuss in a brief editorial on the last page of a magazine. For a much-too-simple illustration we might point out that the impact of Willie Mays' bat is good or bad depending upon whether you are a Giant player or a Giant opponent!

We are convinced, however, that the impact of television is frequently bad. As parents who are interested in the welfare of our children it is our business to observe and to judge carefully as to the nature of that impact upon them. Then on the basis of that judgment to act—to react to the impact!

When we are convinced that the impact is bad, it

is not enough to turn off the television set, to send the children to bed while we sneak a look ourselves, or to refuse children the privilege of watching particular programs. We have a duty to let sponsors, producers, and station managers know how we feel about such use of this new instrument with the potential tremendous impact. Even such a lowly instrument as the now two-cent postcard has considerable impact. So put in your two-cents worth.

Furthermore, it is only fair to accentuate the positive. When you think the impact is good on your children, on yourself, on your neighbors, speak right up! React to the Impact!

### ***Soon We'll Begin to Know***

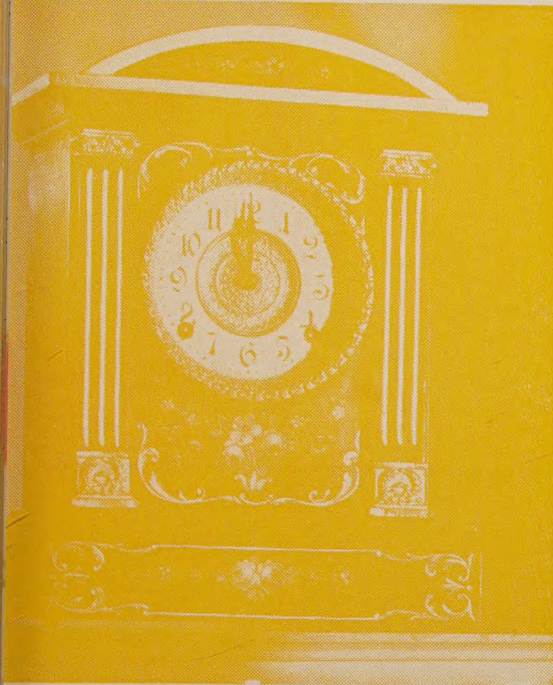
During 1954 a nationwide medical research project was carried out by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Distinguished scientists developed this project to test the effectiveness of the polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas E. Salk of the University of Pittsburgh. Will it really prevent paralytic polio among children?

Some 650,000 girls and boys all over the country were injected with the vaccine or a similar appearing but inert control solution. These children were in the first three grades of school, for it is this group that polio strikes hardest. Careful follow-up of the children as well as non-vaccinated children in the same locality will be made to discover the effectiveness of the vaccine. It will be some time in 1955 before results of this extensive test will begin to be discernable.

This test was made possible by the funds supplied by the March of Dimes campaigns of the past. It is successful in proving that polio can be prevented, the fears and worries of many millions of parents will be greatly relieved, and another great advance in the conquest of disease and death will have been made.

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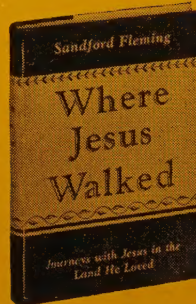
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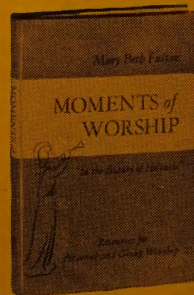
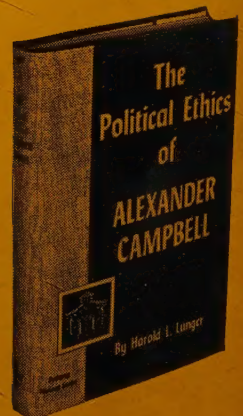


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